

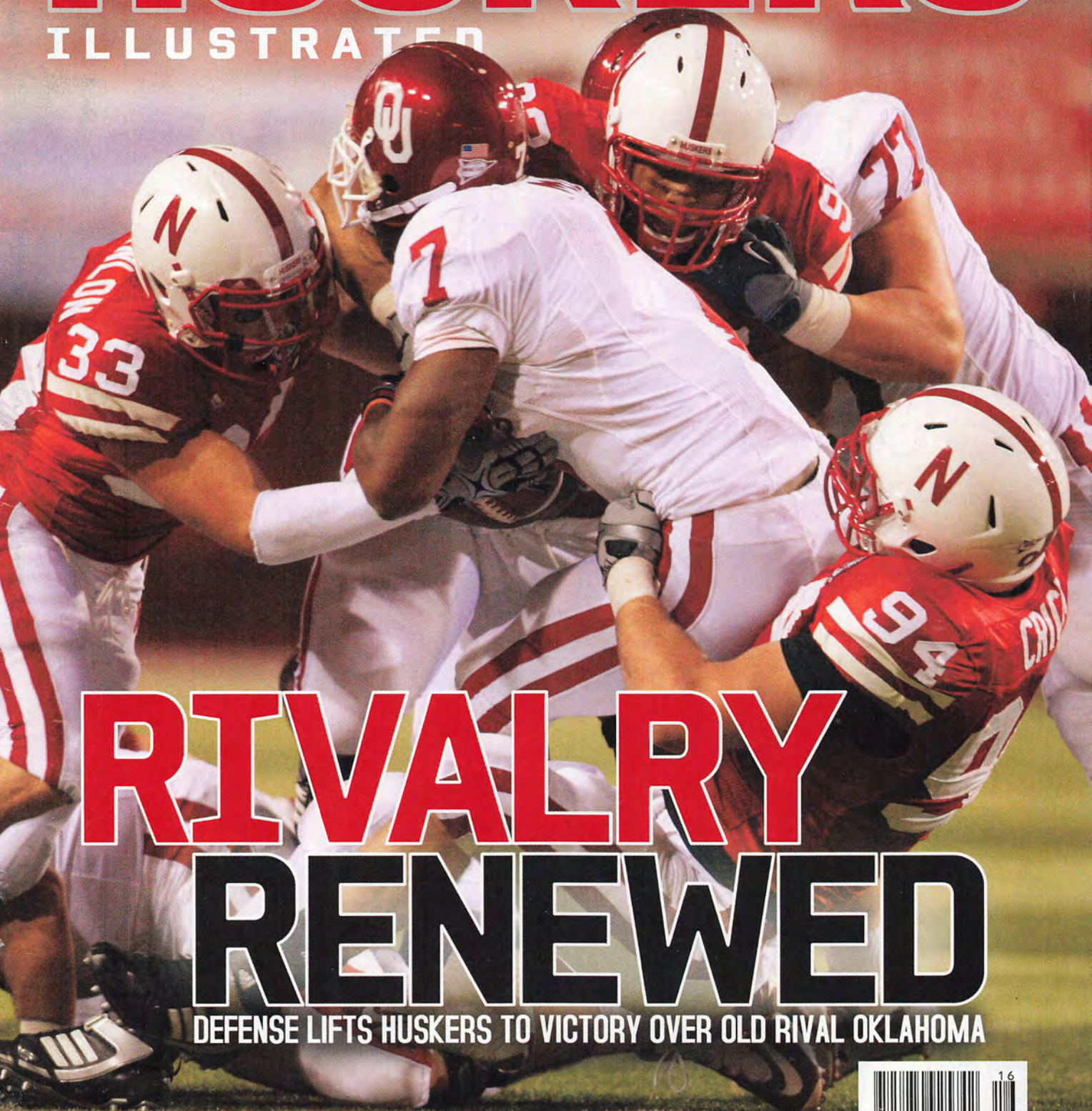
KANSAS PREVIEW



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



RIVALRY RENEWED

DEFENSE LIFTS HUSKERS TO VICTORY OVER OLD RIVAL OKLAHOMA

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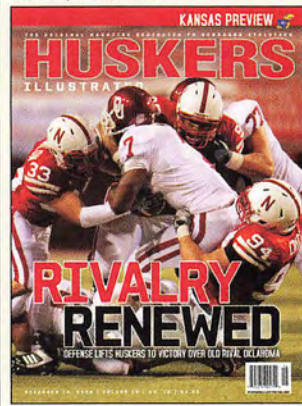
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ON THE COVER

Matt O'Hanlon, Ndamukong Suh and Jared Crick swarm Sooner quarterback Landry Jones. The Blackshirts stuffed the Oklahoma rush attack, limiting it to 80 yards on 29 carries. Jones completed just 26 of 58 passes for 245 yards and threw five interceptions.

Photo by Scott Bruhn.



RIVALRY RENEWED

This game was deserving of a curtain call

THERE SHOULD BE curtain calls in football.

Nebraska fans certainly hung around Memorial Stadium like they would see one. The entire Cornhusker roster, coaching staff and support personnel had already left the field after a 10-3 win.

But the fans wanted more.

Nearly every one of the 86,115 in attendance was still standing in place, relishing one of Nebraska's biggest home wins of the decade.

It was late, but the Husker faithful didn't want to go home. They wanted an encore. And who can blame them? If the last 10 years have taught Husker fans anything, it's to savor those special wins.

Fans wanted to give one more cheer for Oklahoma native Phillip Dillard – the senior who fought back from the bottom of the depth chart to emerge as Nebraska's finest linebacker and take center stage with eight tackles, a sack and an interception.

The Husker faithful wanted one to give one more cheer for senior safety Matt O'Hanlon, the former walk-on from Bellevue East. O'Hanlon, who has been maligned at times, turned in a game bigger than his Gator Bowl performance by tying a school record with three interceptions and a team-high 12 tackles.

Those fans wanted to give one more cheer for a defense that overcame injuries and cramps to hold the Sooners to 3 points – fewest in the Bob Stoops' era – and keep Oklahoma out of the end zone for the first time since 1998. Somehow this greatness was achieved after spending an eternity on the field – 87 plays, to be exact.

Cornhusker fans wanted more because



this game was deserving of Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry status. It was the closest margin of victory between these two storied programs since Oklahoma's 31-24 win in 2005 and marked Nebraska's first win since 2001, when Mike Stuntz launched a 63-yard touchdown strike to Eric Crouch for a 20-10 win.

It was appropriate that in a game that echoed the tradition of this historic rivalry, there was no need to recall the ghosts of Huskers or Sooners past... they were already in the building.

Nebraska celebrated the Heisman trio of Johnny Rodgers, Mike Rozier and Eric Crouch. Tommie Frazier, Trev Alberts, Will Shields, Zach Wiegert, Aaron Taylor and Darin Erstad roamed the stadium. Dave Rimington, Dean Steinkuhler and Larry Jacobson beamed on the sidelines. Nebraska's 1959 team, which snapped Oklahoma's 74-game conference unbeaten streak was on hand for the win.

Not to be outdone, Oklahoma's sidelines dripped with tradition. Barry Switzer sported a smile as he was joined by Sooner greats, such as Billy Simms, Greg Pruitt, Joe Washington, Jason White, Tom Brahaney, Steve Owens, Josh Heupel and Jason White.

So after a night like this, why would you want to go home?

There should definitely be curtain calls in football. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

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PLAYING WITH FIRE

The question was posed of **BO PELINI** during his weekly news conference following the Iowa State game. It was posed with the passion that was its subject. "What about fire, Bo? You played with fire when you played at Ohio State," the reporter said. "You exhibited fire."

Pelini, who earned four letters (1987-90) as a safety and was a captain as a senior at Ohio State, interrupting the reporter: "How do you know? You weren't there."

Reporter, undeterred by the laughter Pelini's response elicited: "My observation, sometimes, when I watch the team, just mine, I don't...I feel like I want to see a little more fire. I want to see somebody grab somebody. I want to see anger. I want to see a little more rage."

Pelini: "You ever watch me on the sideline?"

Reporter, trying to get back on subject:

"You don't play. The players play."

Pelini was quick to the defense of his players, and their fire. "Our guys are playing hard," he said. "You watch the film, the effort's there. Is there always instances? Yes. But that doesn't get it done. Technique, fundamentals, obviously want-to, all those things, you know..."

"Somebody says our team doesn't have fire, I disagree."

A few players "I'd like to use a cattle prod on, at times; you'd better believe it," Pelini said. "But, you know, that's something that's part of the deal. You can say that about any football team. There are a lot of different personalities, and there's a lot of different ways (of motivating)."

Not every player has to be demonstrative. "You can have some meek, mild-mannered guys, which I've been around, those guys that are (mild-

mannered) off the field," said Pelini. "They don't say a whole heck of a lot, but they play well. They play really well. So it's all in the guy."

Near the end of Pelini's interview, the reporter asked: "You want to ask us a question?"

Pelini: "No, that's fine."

Pelini paused, and then added: "I want to know when you saw me play at Ohio State."

Reporter: "Black and white film."

Pelini: "Hey, I ain't that old."

As Pelini walked from the room, he met **NDAMUKONG SUH**, who was next up in front of the reporters. Pelini said Suh should be shown some film of his days at Ohio State.

"He could learn a few things," Pelini said.

Suh alluded to leather helmets as the two passed.

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TEAM UNITY: **NDAMUKONG SUH** has been adamant that the team wouldn't be split over the issue of whether junior **ZAC LEE** or freshman **CODY GREEN** should be the starting quarterback. "We're not going to have a division on this team," Suh said the week of the Baylor game.

Suh is in a position to speak of the subject. He's a member of the Unity Council, one of 16 on the council this year. The others are: seniors Larry Asante, Menelik Holt, Barry Turner, Jacob Hickman, Matt O'Hanlon, Rickey Thenarse (who is expected to get a sixth season of eligibility), Colton Koehler and Chris Brooks; juniors Pierre Allen, Roy Helu, Jr., Zac Lee, Mike McNeill and Mike Smith; and freshmen Rex Burkhead and Jason Ankrah.

TOUGH LOVE

True freshman linebacker **ERIC MARTIN**, who has made a significant contribution on special teams, immediately connected with coach **BO PELINI**. "He told me on my recruiting trip, 'This is the good side of me. And when you see the bad side, it's nothing personal,'" said Martin.

"So that's how I took it. I believed him. That's how Coach **CARL (PELINI)** was, too; he told me the same exact thing. They're brothers, so they told me the same thing."

The first time **BO PELINI** yelled at him, Martin said, "it was a shock to me, how bad he yelled at me. But I didn't take it personal. I just went out and did the right thing."

Players should understand that coaches'



criticism isn't personal. "It's all just love, just tough love," said Martin. "If you make a mistake, it has to be corrected, and the best way to correct it is, well, for us, is yelling. If he yells at us, the next play we're going to make sure we do it right."

"If he wasn't to yell at us, and he was just to tell us nicely and softly, like, 'Hey, you messed up, do it again,' we're not going to take it all serious because, you know, he's not taking it serious."



HOME SWEET HOME

Nebraska ranked second on a list of the "Top 25 Ultimate College Football Game-Day Experiences," compiled for NBCSports.com, recently, by **JOE CONNOR**.

Wrote Connor: "The most loyal, respectful and knowledgeable fans in all of college football, as evidenced by the longest sellout streak in the sport, dating back to 1962. What's more, this stadium is more than just a sea of red – it's the most underrated venue in college football for its historical value. For example, in each of its four corners there are mottos to live by, such as 'Courage; Generosity; Fairness; Honor; In these are the true awards of manly sport.' Or another, just outside the stadium, 'through these gates, pass the greatest fans in college football.'"

First on Connor's list are the service academies: Army, Navy and Air Force.

Notre Dame is third on the list, followed by LSU, Alabama, Penn State, Ohio State, Tennessee, Florida and Texas. The only other Big 12 schools are Texas A&M (12) and Oklahoma (16).

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YOUNGSTERS

CODY GREEN and **DONTRAYEVOUS ROBINSON** are true freshmen. Green has been at Nebraska longer, however. He enrolled in January and went through spring practice.

As a result, Green is a veteran by comparison. So his referring to Robinson as a “kid” is technically justified. “The kid runs hard,” Green said. “Whenever he takes the ball, he has a meaning of what he’s going to do, how he’s going to do it. He makes himself known. We always say that, heck, he’s 2-something (200 pounds plus); sometimes he may run real soft and tentative, but I can understand because he’s young and doesn’t know where to run or how to run it. Now he’s starting to get confidence (and) he’s running like a back that’s 240 and just has something to prove.”

ANIMAL, IN A POSITIVE WAY

Senior safety **MATT O’HANLON** has a good view of what’s happening up front in Nebraska’s defense. So he speaks with some authority on the play of sophomore defensive tackle **JARED CRICK**.

“Crick is an animal to begin with,” O’Hanlon said after Crick broke the school single-game record for sacks against Baylor, with five. “So if they pay that much attention to (**NDAMUKONG**) **SUH**, he’s going to make them pay. If he was playing for any other program in the country, other teams would probably be double-teaming him, too. He just had a monster day, and he really helped us out.”

Defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** also used “monster” afterward to describe Crick’s performance against Baylor.

SIDELINES



TECHNIQUE EQUALS PHYSICALITY

Perhaps the Cornhusker cornerbacks have been more physical this season. But “I don’t know if it’s as much the physicality of it,” coach **BO PELINI** said of their play. “It’s the technique. It’s playing with your technique and fundamentals, and really, it’s about execution.

“I think our guys are very capable. I like what we’re doing, but once again, there’s still a lot of room for growth in the back end. I think our guys are playing better technique-wise, more consistently, and playing with better fundamentals. To me, when that happens, you look like a more physical football team. You’re getting your hands on people. You’re playing with good technique. And when you’re playing the right way, it should look more physical because that’s the only way you play good defense.”

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Pelini continues to work on sideline behavior

Through the first eight games this season, **JARED CRICK** had 8.5 sacks and 13 tackles for loss.

NDAMUKONG SUH also had 13 tackles for loss, with 5 sacks.

Season and career sack leader **TREV ALBERTS** was freed up as a senior in 1993, as Nebraska went away from a "50" front to an attacking 4-3 base alignment.

BRODERICK THOMAS, an outstanding pass rusher, played outside linebacker in the old system. Otherwise, he might be even higher on the sacks and tackles-for-loss lists. "We wasted him some because he was dropping (in coverage) and rushing,"

TOM OSBORNE has said. **N**



GAME SACKS

Jared Crick, DT, 2009 (Baylor)	5
Mike Rucker, RE, 1996 (Texas Tech)	4
Trev Alberts, OLB, 1993 (Texas Tech)	4
Kenny Walker, DT, 1990 (Oregon State)	4
Danny Noonan, MG, 1986 (Florida State)	4
Jim Skow, DT, 1985 (Missouri)	4

SEASON SACKS (SINCE 1981)

Trev Alberts, OLB, 1993	15
Jim Skow, DT, 1985	15
Danny Noonan, MG, 1986	12
Demorrio Williams, WLB, 2003	11
Kenny Walker, DT, 1990	11
Broderick Thomas, OLB, 1986	11
Danny Noonan, DT, 1985	11
Jared Tomich, OLB, 1995	10
Broderick Thomas, OLB, 1988	10
Tim Rother, DT, 1987	10
Neil Smith, DT, 1986	10
Jimmy Williams, DE, 1981	10

CAREER SACKS (SINCE 1981)

Trev Alberts, OLB, 1990-93	29.5
Grant Wistrom, RE, 1994-97	26.5
Jim Skow, DT, 1982-85	26
Danny Noonan, MG, 1984-86	24
Broderick Thomas, OLB, 1985-88	22.5
Adam Carriker, DE, 2003-06	20.5
*Ndamukong Suh, DT, 2005-present ..	17
Travis Hill, OLB, 1989-92	16.5
Jared Tomich, RE, 1994-96	16
Kenny Walker, DT, 1988-90	16
Mike Rucker, RE, 1995-98	15.5

GAME TACKLES FOR LOSS (SINCE 1968)

Jared Crick, DT, 2009 (Baylor)	7
Jim Skow, DT, 1985 (Missouri)	7
Sherwin Jarmon, DE, 1969 (Iowa State)	7

SEASON TACKLES FOR LOSS (SINCE 1968)

Jim Skow, DT, 1985	25
Corey McKeon, MLB, 2005	22
Demorrio Williams, WLB, 2003	21
Trev Alberts, OLB, 1993	21
Kenny Walker, DT, 1990	21
Derrie Nelson, DE, 1980	21
Grant Wistrom, RE, 1996	20
Barrett Ruud, MLB, 2004	18
Jimmy Williams, DE, 1980	18
Willie Harper, DE, 1972	18

CAREER TACKLES FOR LOSS (SINCE 1968)

Grant Wistrom, RE, 1994-97	58.5
Barrett Ruud, MLB, 2001-04	50
*Ndamukong Suh, DT, 2005-present	46
Trev Alberts, OLB, 1990-93	45
Jim Skow, DT, 1982-85	44
Adam Carriker, DE, 2003-06	41
Willie Harper, DE, 1970-72	41
Broderick Thomas, OLB, 1985-88	39
Mike Rucker, RE, 1995-98	38
Jay Moore, DE, 2003-06	38
Travis Hill, OLB, 1989-92	37.5

**Through eight games*

TEAM SEASON RECORDS

Through eight games, the Cornhuskers had 25 sacks for 165 yards in losses and 70 tackles for losses of 235 yards.

SACKS

Year	Sacks-Yds (Games)	Leader
1999	53-395 (12)	Steve Warren, DT, 7
2005	50-381 (12)	Adam Carriker, DE, 9.5
1985	49-383 (11)	Jim Skow, DT, 15
1996	47-304 (12)	Grant Wistrom, RE, 9.5
1984	44-325 (11)	Chris Spachman, DT, 7
1993	44-294 (11)	Trev Alberts, OLB, 15
1997	44-313 (12)	Grant Wistrom, RE, 8.5
1994	43-263 (12)	Christian Peter, DT, 7
1990	42-269 (11)	Kenny Walker, DT, 11
1981	41-326 (11)	Jimmy Williams, DE, 10

TACKLES FOR LOSS

Year	Tackles-Yds (Games)	Leader
2005	140-573 (12) ...	Corey McKeon, MLB, 22
1996	127-497 (12) ...	Grant Wistrom, RE, 20
2002	126-375 (14)	Chris Kelsey, RE, 13
1999	112-530 (12)	Steve Warren, DT, 15
2004	112-305 (11) ...	Barrett Ruud, MLB, 18
1997	109-464 (12) ...	Grant Wistrom, RE, 17
2001	106-499 (13)	Chris Kelsay, RE, 17
2006	105-386 (14)	Jay Moore, DE, 17
1998	105-385 (12)	Chad Kelsay, RE, 14
1990	100-446 (11)	Kenny Walker, DT, 21

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FATHERS AND SONS

The fathers of seven current Cornhuskers played in at least one season in the NFL:

Anthony Blue	.....	Tony Blue, DB, Seahawks (1987)
Tyson Clark	.....	Bret Clark, DB, Falcons (1986-88)
Ben Cotton	.....	Barney Cotton, OL, Bengals/Rams (1979-81)
Zac Lee	.....	Bob Lee, QB, Vikings/Falcons/Rams (1969-80)
Jay Martin	.....	Bob Martin, LB, Jets/49ers
Baker Steinkuhler	.....	Dean Steinkuhler, OL, Oilers (1984-91)
Anthony West	.....	Bob West, WR, Chiefs/49ers (1972-74)

DEEP THINKER

Offensive linemen have to be aggressive yet keep a level head. "It's got to be like a calm aggression, if you would," said center Jacob Hickman. "It's an oxymoron in there. I mean, if you get too excited, you're going to mess up assignments. And if you get too calm, you're going to get beat, so you have to have the calm aggression in order to get in there. When you get frustrated, it really gets problems

into that."

Not many offensive linemen can work "oxymoron" into a conversation.

"You know, you can tell he's a thinker," sophomore offensive tackle Marcel Jones said of Hickman. "Sometimes, he'll tend to rattle a little bit and just release a lot of his knowledge onto you, and you're like, 'I just wanted this question. I don't want to go too far in depth.' He's a really, really deep thinker. That's a good way to put it."

SIDELINES



FACT, AFTER THE FACT

Here's some trivia. The Nebraska-Baylor game matched winners of the only two Gotham Bowl games ever played. Baylor won the 1961 Gotham Bowl game against Utah State, 24-9. Nebraska won the 1962 Gotham Bowl game against Miami, 36-34 (trophy pictured above). That the bowl game, played in New York City, would be short-lived was no surprise. Attendance at the first was estimated at 15,000. Attendance for the second was announced at 6,166, with 5,000 free tickets. The first Gotham Bowl would have been played in 1960. Oregon State was invited. But no opponent could be scheduled.

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READING THE FIELD

BY JOE GANZ

Great offense requires talent, leadership

I CAME TO NEBRASKA at the same time Bill Callahan took over as head coach, so the West Coast system is really the only offense I ever learned how to run at the college level. It wasn't necessarily confusing to me, but it was complicated and a little hard to grasp at first for many of the younger players.

The thing that Coach Callahan was really good at was using shifts and motions to gain an extra-man advantage in blocking and different scenarios like that. The problem was the plays got so wordy that it was difficult for younger guys to learn and it was even tough for veteran guys to sometimes say in the huddle, so we were always trying to find a balance there.

When Shawn Watson took over the offense, it wasn't that he really eliminated a lot of things, but he simplified the offense in a way that you can just go out and play and didn't have to think so much about a million different things. What Coach Watson does well is he still keeps enough plays to attack a defense, but there are similar plays out of different formations and different structures.

Coach Callahan wanted to go into a game with 350 different plays, while "Wats" usually goes in with 150 or 160 different plays, but then there are several variations of those plays, but it really kind of frees up your mind. Coach Watson gives you some base rules and then you would

plug those into the different shifts and motions that we did.

What you're seeing at Nebraska now is more of a variation between the West Coast offense and the spread. The Huskers still do a lot of the same things we did and they like to spread teams out, which keeps them from stacking the box and it doesn't allow them to hide their intentions very well because there's so much space to cover.

After the Missouri game last year, we kind of went more toward the spread style. We'd still do the same kinds of plays, but just out of different formations and with different personnel. "Wats" ran the typical West Coast offense at Colorado, but as the college game has evolved, we haven't wanted to lose our core West Coast system. However, we wanted to make it a little bit easier for younger kids to come in and play.

I don't know if a freshman could've started in Coach Callahan's system. To be able to come in and run 300-and-some plays and know how to make all the proper checks would be tough to do. Now, you see Nebraska is able to get the quarterback out of the pocket a little more and he can make easier high-low reads. If you can simplify a system like that, a guy with Cody Green's abilities and athleticism can do well.

The first thing that you learn about the West Coast offense is that the quarterback is set up to have success. All he needs to do

is play within the system, manage the game and take your shots when the coaches call it. Other than that, it's a ball-control offense that's all about timing and accuracy from the quarterback and I think the reason I was able to have some success is those were two of my strengths as a quarterback.

You can study all you want in the playbook or on film, but when you get out there in a game, teams do different things to you to try and mess you up. That's probably the only thing that Cody's going to struggle with; he hasn't played enough games against this type of competition. He doesn't know everything that everybody is going to do to him yet, so he's just going to have to learn on the fly.

As a player, you don't really care what the offense is called; you just care if you're having success. If I'd call Nebraska's offense anything, I'd call it a hybrid between the West Coast and the spread, but what it allowed us to do was use multiple sets and multiple personnel and keep the offense off balance.

It really frustrates me a lot when I hear criticism of this style of offense or of Coach Watson. This is the same offense that we ran the last couple of years when we were having a lot of success. It's tough to replace not only the talent, but also the leadership we had on offense last year at nearly every position. You can't put a price on that. **N**

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SUPERIOR, NE



If Superior never produced another Nebraska football letterman, its place in Cornhusker history would be secure. **ED WEIR** (pictured) was Nebraska's first two-time All-American as well as the first Cornhusker to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame (1951).

WALTER ECKERSALL, who played for coach **AMOS ALONZO STAGG** at the University of Chicago and later was a college official as well as a sports writer for the Chicago Tribune, wrote of Weir: "I consider Ed Weir, who captained the 1925 University of Nebraska football eleven, one of the greatest forwards I have ever seen in my twenty-five years of active connection with football."

Defensively, Weir often drew double-team blocking and was regarded as one of the first "red-dogging" linemen. "I liked to get a yard and a half or two yards back and when the ball was snapped I was ready to slash right on through," he told Lincoln (Neb.) Journal sports editor **WALT DOBBINS** in 1951. "They didn't 'mousetrap' so much in those days and I hate to think what would have happened if the opposing teams would have driven through the hole I left open."

Though a tackle, the 6-foot, 190-pound Weir, a fullback in high school, was used in a variety of ways on offense at Nebraska. He also punted and place-kicked.

He was recruited by Cornhusker coach **FRED DAWSON**, who couldn't offer scholarship aid so Weir worked as a janitor at the Scottish Rite Temple in Lincoln. He also worked on the construction of Memorial Stadium and played every minute in the first game there, on Oct. 13, 1923.

Nebraska defeated a Notre Dame team that included the famed "Four Horsemen" (though **GRANTLAND RICE** wouldn't give them that nickname until the next season) at Memorial Stadium a month later, 14-7. The game was among the most memorable of his career, Weir told Dobbins.

Notre Dame coach **KNUTE ROCKNE** called Weir "the greatest (player) in the country: a great man in size, fast, a furious charger, hard tackler and a man who played always as if inspired."

SUPERIOR, NE

County: Nuckolls

Population: 1,793

Distance from Lincoln:
130 miles

NU FOOTBALL

LETTERMEN:

Ed Weir, T (1923-24-25)

Joe Weir, E (1924-25-26)

DID YOU KNOW?

► Ed Weir also earned three letters in track at Nebraska – he was a hurdler – and coached the Cornhusker track and field team for 14 years, winning 10 conference championships. Nebraska's outdoor track is named in his honor.

► Weir played three professional seasons with the Frankford Yellowjackets before returning to Nebraska to coach. His brother Joe played one season for Frankford.

► The Chamber of Commerce describes Superior as the "Victorian capital of Nebraska" as well as the "Oasis on the Great Plains in the middle of everywhere!"

SIDELINES



OFFENSIVE REMARKS

Recruits have been impressed with Nebraska's performance on defense this fall, citing the play, in particular, of the Husker defensive line and All-America candidate **NDAMUKONG SUH**. However, some skill players have recently made mention of the Huskers' struggles on the offensive side of the ball.

TYLER SLAVIN, a 6-2, 182-pound wide receiver out of Corona, Calif., Eleanor Roosevelt was scheduled to visit Nebraska on Nov. 6. He said he hopes to learn more about the Huskers' long-term quarterback plans while in Lincoln.

"I have to look more into their quarterbacks," Slavin said. "I don't think their quarterback play has been very good this year. I want to know who they're going to have there."

Slavin, rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, is also considering overtures from Arizona, Arizona State, Washington, Stanford and Colorado. Through seven games this fall, he recorded 24 catches for 363 yards (15 yards per catch) and four touchdowns.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Sooners can provide model for Huskers

UNLIKE BOB STOOPS at Oklahoma, Bo Pelini isn't going to win a national championship in his second season at Nebraska.

In fact, given where the Huskers sat going into the Oklahoma game, one can debate whether they were in better shape than they were at the same time last year. I'll take the view that they are – and that they'll go down to the final regular-season game with a chance to earn the Big 12 North Division's spot in the league championship.

That didn't happen in 2008, did it?

At the same time, Pelini, who aspires to take his program to the heights Stoops has brought the Sooners, could definitely take a cue from how his old pal from Youngstown, Ohio, went about things immediately after he arrived in Norman, Okla.

Like Pelini, Stoops went into his first head coaching job having earned the reputation of being a defensive wiz. And he had plenty of work to do on that side of the football, too.

But Oklahoma's quick re-emergence as a national power occurred in large part because of what Stoops did with the Sooners' offense.

In 1998, the year before Stoops went to Oklahoma, the Sooners scored the fewest points of Big 12 teams in league games, and were No. 7 in scoring defense. Understandably, they had no first- or second-team all-league offensive players.

Stoops' remedy was to hire Mike Leach to install a spread attack that had produced record numbers at Kentucky, a move that would allow him to concentrate on rebuilding the defense.

The formula worked instantly.

In 1999 league games, the Sooners were No. 3 in both scoring and scoring defense (more than doubling their 1998 point total and cutting the points allowed by 25 percent).

The 2000 club finished No. 2 in scoring and No. 1 in scoring defense.

Quarterback Josh Heupel was the league's Offensive Player of the Year and running back Quentin Griffin, wide receiver Antwone Savage and lineman Frank Romero were second-team All-Big 12.

Stoops had been impressed by what Leach was able to accomplish with offensive personnel he considered not overly physical or talented.

"I felt coming into Oklahoma that we weren't at all the most talented or physical and . . . in the end, felt that was our quickest way to move the football and get things started," Stoops said recently.

He also pictured that offense evolving into one with more formations and having a better capacity to run the ball. And it has.

Through eight games this season, even though the Sooners had been without 2008 Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Sam Bradford for most of the year, and never had pre-season all-league tight end Jermaine Gresham, they still ranked No. 4 in scoring in league games. And the guy who was forced to step in for Bradford, redshirted freshman Landry Jones, was looking like the next big star. In his last three games before playing at Nebraska, Jones had completed 76 passes for 796 yards and seven touchdowns.

"I tell you what it did," Stoops said of going to the offense he did, "it immediately attracted quarterbacks and receivers, and that was a place where we were really void of talent when we arrived here. We really didn't have a quarterback on campus, and bringing that system in we got Josh Heupel, who had an incredible career, though he wasn't highly recruited.

"Then we got Jason White, (an eventual) Heisman Trophy winner who was leaning to a bunch of other schools. And Nate Hybl, a guy who won a Big 12 championship and Rose Bowl for us (in 2002), transferred from Georgia. So all of a sudden we show up for fall practice (in 1999) and we've got three really good quarterbacks."

It's that example that gives Nebraska hope.

The Huskers had more defensive issues to deal with after Pelini arrived, and went from being the second-most-scored-on defense in Big 12 games to No. 8. Halfway through this year's league slate, they were second.

Husker fans don't like the fact that NU also was 11th in scoring, but it's worth noting that seven of the 11 offensive positions were being manned by first-year starters. One of those, of course, is quarterback, where Zac Lee and Cody Green have both had opportunities.

Both will be back next year, and if you don't think that's a big thing, consider that only two quarterbacks in their first season as a starter have ever led their team to a Big 12 championship.

Guesses?

Try Bradford in 2007, and Oklahoma's Paul Thompson in 2006. **N**



Sean Fisher

6-6, 230, Redshirted Freshman, Linebacker, Omaha

HI: Your father, Todd, told us before the season you and he worked together restoring a '69 Ford Mustang. What was your favorite part of that whole experience?

FISHER: It was me and my dad predominantly that worked on it. It was about a three-year project. It was a lot of fun at times, it was a lot of work at times. Probably the funnest thing, like I said it was just me and my dad, so it was a lot of time just in the garage, me and him spending a lot of time together.

HI: What's your most memorable athletic experience?

FISHER: Uhm, that's tough. Maybe the state game my senior year. That was a pretty fun game to play in. We lost, but at the same time it was pretty fun.

HI: How hard was your decision between Nebraska and Oklahoma, and what was the deciding factor there?

FISHER: Not too tough. Being from the state, I always kind of wanted to go to school here. I thought I kind of owed it to myself to at least look at other places and make sure it was the right decision for me. I had a pretty good idea from pretty early on. Oklahoma, in meeting with their coaching staff I think they're a good group of guys as well. Obviously, the program's had a lot of success, so that's a big bone for a player.

HI: Your father played football at Nebraska. What kind of advice does he give you about being a Cornhusker and playing football here?

FISHER: He's pretty good at times about kind of standing back a little bit and letting me figure things out on my own. When I do need advice, he's right there for me. Obviously, he's able to kind of give his input on the same types of things I'm going through.

HI: Any other good athletes in your family?

FISHER: Yeah, I've got two younger brothers. One's a junior in high school at Millard North, and he's getting looked at by some people, and I have a brother in eighth grade who's a pretty good athlete. So both of those, they could both play in football.

HI: If you were going to play in a sport other than football, what would you play and why?

FISHER: Probably baseball. I played baseball in high school and kind of gave it up my junior year once I decided I wanted to play football. Yeah, I like playing baseball, I like pitching.

HI: Who's the funniest player on the team?

FISHER: Uh, (Anthony) Blue, maybe? He does some pretty outrageous things. Just his overall demeanor and personality. He's kind of a goofy kid.

HI: How difficult is it to maintain your 4.0 grade point average and play football on the Division I level?

FISHER: I think it just depends on how dedicated you are and what your aspirations are in the future. I hope some day to go to med school, and obviously it's difficult to get into and you have to maintain a high GPA to get in, so I'm motivated and have hopes to do that, so it's not too difficult.

HI: You have a Blackshirt. What was the experience of getting it like?

FISHER: We met as a defense and they went through and just called people's names and you got one. It's great for me. I grew up here in the state, growing up watching some of the best defenses around, watching players like Grant Wistrom. So to be able to kind of be included in the same category as those guys is pretty unreal for me.

HI: What's your favorite Mike Ekeler story?

FISHER: He told us he was at K-State, and every game he would pick a sign, an advertisement, and ram his head through it. He said one game he picked out this Pepsi sign and was going to run through it. He went, he hit it and there was a steel I-beam behind it. He broke his nose and had a concussion.



Ron McDole

Still going strong at age 70

HERE'S A GOOD trivia question: Which ex-Nebraska football player had the longest tenure in the National Football League?

Here's an even better one: Of all the Huskers who played in the NFL, which three among the top four on the all-time list played on the same college team?

Time's up.

Ron McDole is the answer to the first question. The ex-Husker offensive and defensive tackle played 18 years in the NFL, including a pair of eight-year stints with Buffalo and Washington, mostly as a defensive end.

McDole and two of his former Husker teammates, Pat Fischer and Mick Tingelhoff, each of whom spent 17 years in the NFL (along with former Husker Irving Fryar), all played on the 1959 NU team that upset Oklahoma, 25-21. The game is still called the greatest upset in the history of Nebraska football.

McDole, Fischer and Tingelhoff represent 52 pro football years, and all three achieved all-pro status. Warren Powers, a sophomore teammate, spent six years with the Raiders, so that 1959 team had a combined 58 pro football years. All four ex-pros were among the 33 Husker players

who made it back to Lincoln last weekend for the 50th anniversary

celebration of an upset that ended the longest conference unbeaten streak in NCAA history ... 74 consecutive games under legendary coach Bud Wilkinson.

"I played in 240 games in the pros, but I'll never forget that game," McDole said. "I remember how we got ahead of Oklahoma and how tough it was on their line trying to play catch up. They were small and quick, but they were raw and they were scrambling. They never huddled that whole second half.

"In my mind, I remember how much

we were hanging around at the end," McDole said. "That game was in doubt until Ron Meade intercepted that pass in the end zone in the final seconds."

The Huskers had beaten OU for the first time in 17 years and became the

first team in the conference to beat the Sooners in 13 years.

"The fans stormed the field and took down the goal posts," McDole recalled. "The whole town went crazy. They even called off classes on Monday, so we were all running around having a good



RON MCDOLE

LETTERS: 1958-59-60

POSITION: Tackle

WIFE: Toni

CHILDREN: Daughter Tammy; Sons Taz, Mick and Tracey, four grandchildren

CURRENT: Small business owner, cabinetry

RESIDENCE: Middletown, Va.

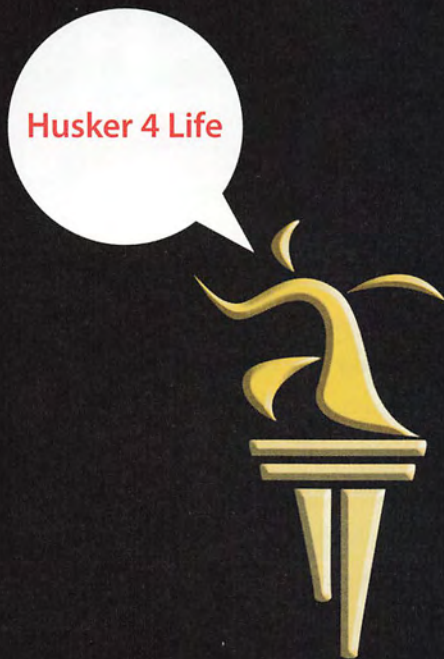
time. We were pretty popular people that weekend. At least for a day or two everybody was really happy."

The euphoria didn't last long. "The next week, we went to Iowa State and lost (18-6)," McDole pointed out. "Remember the Dirty Thirty? They were the ones who beat us."

Interestingly, McDole and Fischer, his long-time friend and teammate, started on a Super Bowl team together in Washington. Tingelhoff started on four Super Bowl teams in Minnesota. Powers, who started in a Super Bowl for Oakland, is the only one of the four to play on a winning team at Nebraska.

"We had some good ball players and some good moments," McDole said. "But for some reason, we had a hard time being consistent my entire time at Nebraska." **N**





Nebraska
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Mangino continues to work to improve dangerous offense

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE



KANSAS' OFFENSE ranks among the top 15 nationally in terms of yards per game.

Nevertheless, Jayhawks eighth-year head coach Mark Mangino hasn't exactly been doing cartwheels lately over the unit's overall performance.

"We're not running the ball well all the time, we're not protecting well, and we're dropping balls all over the place," he said. "We've had drops this season that are uncharacteristic of us. They've been at crucial times, and they've hurt us."

Mangino noted that the offensive line has no seniors "and is not progressing the way we'd like," he said. "We're analyzing that and trying to fix that. And dropping the ball, there's no excuse for that."

What's more, Kansas' running game has been hurt by the fact senior tailback Jake Sharp has been slowed by injuries.

Mangino raised eyebrows Oct. 31 when he benched standout senior quarterback Todd Reesing in favor of redshirted freshman Kale Pick with 7:05 to go in a 42-21 loss at Texas Tech -- which at the time was Kansas' third consecutive defeat. The coach said it was the "appropriate thing to do."

"No. 1, (Reesing) wasn't getting great protection from the offensive line, and I didn't want him taking any more shots," Mangino said. "No. 2, things just weren't in sync for our whole offense -- not just him. I thought it was in his best interest and our team's best interest to take him out of there for the last couple series."



Reesing accepted his coach's decision and moved forward quickly. Mangino immediately made it clear that Reesing would remain Kansas' starting quarterback.

The Jayhawks took a record of 5-3 overall and 1-3 in the Big 12 into a Nov. 7 game at Kansas State. KU's early struggles in league play came on the heels of Mangino touting Reesing in mid-October as a Heisman Trophy contender -- an uncharacteristic move by the veteran head coach who isn't big on individual player honors.

The 5-foot-11, 200-pound Reesing owns every significant Kansas passing record and in 2007 led the Jayhawks to a 12-1 season and Orange Bowl triumph. He enjoyed another stellar season in 2008, but his statistics are down slightly this season.

NOTES

- ▶ Senior wideout Kerry Meier, the team's leading receiver, is the third-string quarterback, Mangino said.
- ▶ Kansas was the Big 12 media's pre-

season pick in the North Division. But Mangino said his players need to forget the division race and focus on improving. "First of all, they'll read all the papers and listen to all of you guys, so they'll know all that stuff," the coach said. "But they're not going to hear that from me. My message is, we have to get ourselves better."

KANSAS QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Mark Mangino, 8th season, 50-44, all at Kansas
Series: NU leads, 89-23-3
at Lincoln: NU leads, 43-15-2
at Memorial Stadium: NU leads, 33-7-2
at Lawrence: NU leads, 46-8-1
at KU Memorial Stadium: NU leads, 37-7-0
Current win streak (start): NU, 1 game (2008)

2009 SCHEDULE

9/5 Northern Colorado, W, 49-3
 9/12 at Texas-El Paso, W, 34-7
 9/19 Duke, W, 44-16
 9/26 Southern Miss., W, 35-28
 10/10 Iowa State, W, 41-36
 10/17 at Colorado, L, 30-34
 10/24 Oklahoma, L, 13-35
 10/31 at Texas Tech, L, 21-42
 11/7 at Kansas State, 11:30am
 11/14 Nebraska, 2:30pm
 11/21 at Texas, TBA
 11/28 Missouri, TBA

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Aggressive play

Prince Amukamara may have come up short in his quest to reach the end zone, but the Nebraska cornerback didn't fail to provide the Cornhuskers with perhaps their biggest play in a 10-3 victory over No. 20-ranked Oklahoma.

With the two teams locked in a defensive struggle, Amukamara set up the only touchdown of the game when he broke sharply to intercept a pass thrown by Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones and returned it 22 yards to the Sooners' 1-yard line. One play later, Nebraska quarterback Zac Lee connected with tight end Ryan Hill on a touchdown pass, giving the Huskers a 7-0 lead with 13:36 remaining in the second quarter.

As it turned out, the TD set up by Amukamara's interception return proved to be the difference.

"Huge play in the football game – huge play," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said of Amukamara's interception return. "Obviously, that interception kick-started us."

Nebraska defensive tackle Jared Crick agreed.

"That was crucial," Crick said. "Prince did a great job of staying on his feet and fighting for those extra yards."

Amukamara's interception was one of five in the game for Nebraska. Safety Matt O'Hanlon led the way with three



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

interceptions, including a final pick at the Huskers' 3 with 27 seconds to play.

"One thing the defensive coaches have stressed was not to just play not to make mistakes, but to play to make plays," Amukamara said. "I think all of the defensive backs did that. We played more aggressive this game."

After catching his interception, Amukamara joked that he had a flashback to his prep football days at Glendale, Ariz. In his final two seasons at Apollo High School, the 6-foot-1,

200-pound junior rushed for nearly 3,400 yards and 50 TDs.

"It just came naturally," Amukamara said. "I think I did a spin move – I'm not sure – I just wanted to get into the end zone, but I'm glad I set up the offense to score."

So was Pelini.

"You've got to do what you have to do in any game to win the football game," Pelini said. "That's what we did tonight." **N**

– by Terry Douglass



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

SWEET REDEMPTION

Deserved or not, Nebraska safety **MATT O'HANLON** had spent the past month and a half shouldering much of the blame for the Cornhuskers' 16-15 loss at Virginia Tech when a blown pass coverage helped the Hokies rally for a late victory.

In Nebraska's 10-3 victory over Oklahoma, O'Hanlon got to play the hero's role. Not only did the senior from Bellevue East record a career-high 12 tackles, but he also tied a school record with three interceptions, including the game-clincher at the Nebraska 3-yard line with 27 seconds remaining.

Since the Virginia Tech loss, Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** said O'Hanlon bounced back and has shown "great character and resolve." For that reason, Pelini said, O'Hanlon was one of four game captains against Oklahoma.

"He's earned that right," Pelini said.

Even though the three-interception performance against Oklahoma might have earned O'Hanlon a clean slate with some Nebraska fans, he apparently has yet to absolve himself.

"I don't think it really makes up for it," O'Hanlon said. "After the Virginia Tech game, I was down and I just needed to have a breakout game to kind of get my confidence back, so I think this game kind of did that."

QB QUANDRY

Nebraska's situation at quarterback took another turn against Oklahoma as true freshman **CODY GREEN** made his second consecutive start, but was replaced early in the first quarter by junior **ZAC LEE**, who went the rest of the way.

Lee, who was a modest 5-of-9 passing for 35 yards and rushed 10 times for minus-13

yards, replaced Green after **PRINCE AMUKAMARA**'s 22-yard interception return gave Nebraska first and goal at the Oklahoma 1-yard line with 13:59 remaining in the second quarter. Lee promptly threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to tight end **RYAN HILL**, which proved to be the difference in the 10-3 win over the Sooners.

"They always tell you to be ready, just in case," Lee said. "They called my number and I was ready."

"It was a pretty good situation to be put in, honestly."

Green, who started and went the distance in Nebraska's 20-10 win at Baylor on Oct. 31, was just 2-of-5 passing for 4 yards and rushed six times for 8 yards before getting the hook. The Huskers had 19 yards of total offense on 14 first-quarter snaps with Green at QB.

"It just felt right at the time," Nebraska



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

QUICKLY

'59 TEAM REUNION

Members of the 1959 Cornhusker football team held a reunion in Lincoln during Nebraska-Oklahoma weekend with more than 30 players from the squad attending.

While the '59 Nebraska team finished with a 4-6 record, the team is best remembered for its 25-21 victory over Oklahoma. It marked the first win for the Huskers over the Sooners in 17 years and also snapped OU's 74-game conference unbeaten streak.

The following Monday, classes were cancelled on Nebraska's campus, allowing students to have an additional day of celebration.

GREATNESS CELEBRATED

A long list of outstanding players and coaches who have competed in the Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry were recognized last Friday at the Champions Club in Lincoln.

All major award winners from both programs were invited to attend a private dinner. Former Cornhusker award winners who attended included Larry Jacobson (1971 Outland), Johnny Rodgers (1972 Heisman), Dave Rimington (1981 and 1982 Outland and 1982 Lombardi), Dean Steinkuhler (1983 Outland and Ombardi), Mike Rozier (1983 Heisman), Will Shields (1992 Outland), Trev Alberts (1993 Butkus), Zach Wiegert (1994 Outland), Tommie Frazier (1995 Unitas), Aaron Taylor (1997 Outland) and Eric Crouch (2001 Heisman).

Former coaching greats Tom Osborne of Nebraska and Barry Switzer of Oklahoma were also in attendance.

coach **BO PELINI** said of the change. "Cody's a freshman, it was a good defense, there were a lot of things going on and it just felt like the right thing.

"Make no mistake about it, I've got a tremendous amount of confidence in **CODY GREEN**, but you've got to go with your gut."

RETURN OF ROY

After rushing for a combined 48 yards in his previous two games, Nebraska I-back **ROY HELU JR.** gained 138 yards rushing on 20 carries against Oklahoma, including a season-long 63-yard run.

With Helu accounting for 138 of Nebraska's 180 yards of total offense, Huskers' coach **BO PELINI** said the junior I-back gave his team just enough production to be able to utilize the game plan he wanted to use.

"Roy Helu played his tail off," Pelini said. "We went in and we just wanted to keep pounding it and running the football. We were going to be fairly conservative, trying to keep them from blitzing and some of the things that they did.

"We stuck with it and were able to get the lead, which was huge, and allowed us to play to our defense."

DILLARD SHINES

As an Oklahoma native who missed last year's 62-28 loss to the Sooners in Norman, Okla., Nebraska linebacker Phillip Dillard was doubly motivated this time around.

Dillard finished with eight tackles and an interception as the Huskers held Oklahoma without a touchdown in a game for the first time since 1998.

"It was just fun," Dillard said. "It didn't get to play last year, so I had a lot of anger built up because I didn't get to help my team.

"It felt good, playing against my home-state (team). I just went out there and gave it all I could. I'm exhausted."

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said he was proud of the way Dillard played against Oklahoma, noting that the senior from Jenks High School in Tulsa, Okla., has also played well in recent weeks.

"He played like he's been playing and I can't say enough about him," Pelini said of Dillard. "He went through some tough times over the last year, but he's persevered, showed that he's a pretty strong human being and has overcome a lot."



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NEBRASKA



OKLAHOMA



Above: Alfonzo Dennard celebrates after delivering a big hit. [PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN] Middle left: Football intern Jake Wesch jokingly accepts Honorary Coach Warren Buffett's wallet before the game. [AARON BABCOCK] Middle right: Carl and Bo Pelini share a laugh with Bob Stoops before the game. [SCOTT BRUHN]

FAN OF THE GAME



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Joe Kent of Omaha painted an "in your face" hand to prepare for the game.



Eric Martin celebrates after a tackle on special teams. [PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK]

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

Most of the game, the Cornhuskers were stymied on the ground. Through three quarters, they had on 91 yards rushing – and 63 of them came on one **ROY HELU, JR.** carry. But they rushed for 50 yards on 12 carries in the fourth quarter and were able to run some time off the clock.

PASSING:

ZAC LEE entered the game at quarterback with 13:36 remaining in the first half and played the rest of the way. His first pass went for 1 yard, and a touchdown. That was enough. He would throw only eight more passes and complete four, without an interception.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

The Sooners could get nothing going on the ground. That's been a problem all season. But it was even worse against the Blackshirts. The approach is: Stop the run and make the offense one-dimensional. Nebraska did that. Lee asked, rhetorically: "How about our defense?"

PASSING DEFENSE:

Sure, Oklahoma passed for 245 yards. But they were empty yards. "It's not about yards, mam, it's about points," coach **BO PELINI** said in answer to a question from a female reporter. Oh yes, the Cornhuskers intercepted five passes and sacked **LANDRY JONES** twice.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

ALEX HENERY punted 11 times and averaged 43.7 yards. Looked at another way, he punted for more yards than the combined total offense of Nebraska and Oklahoma. OK, so that's a meaningless comparison. But he kept the Sooners from favorable field position time and again.

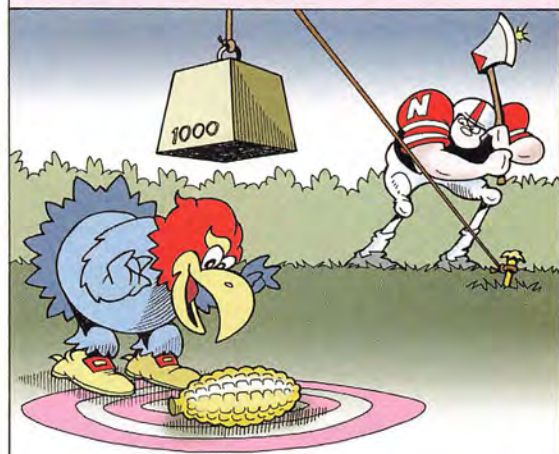
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

NEBRASKA STARS

- Millard South quarterback Bronson Marsh had 212 yards passing and a combined four touchdowns in a 55-34 win over Papillion-La Vista on Friday night.
- Millard West running backs Darius Evans and Vincenzo Guido had a combined 27 carries for 240 yards and four touchdowns in a 35-0 win over Norfolk.
- Blair running back Ryan Randall had 32 carries for 181 yards and one touchdown in a 24-6 win over Waverly.
- Omaha Skutt athlete Christian Dudzik had 205 yards passing and two touchdown through the air and a 82 yard punt return for a touchdown in a 20-13 win over Crete on Friday night. Dudzik also had an interception that sealed the victory for the Sky Hawks in the fourth quarter.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS



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QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock
(47-23/5-3)



Mike Babcock
(48-22/5-3)



Sean Callahan
(44-26/3-5)



John Talman
(44-26/3-5)



Matt Davison
(48-22/5-3)

	(Season/Last Week)				
Nebraska at Kansas	NU 21-9	NU 30-17	NU 23-10	NU 20-17	NU 24-10
Texas at Baylor	UT 42-14	UT 45-14	UT 45-10	UT 42-21	UT 41-13
Missouri at Kansas State	KSU 24-21	MU 28-24	MU 31-27	MU 35-21	MU 27-21
Colorado at Iowa State	ISU 17-14	ISU 35-28	CU 24-16	CU 28-10	ISU 27-23
Texas A&M at Oklahoma	OU 30-6	OU 31-9	OU 34-13	OU 35-14	OU 31-13
Texas Tech at Oklahoma State	TT 30-27	TT 42-38	OSU 34-13	OSU 42-35	OSU 37-24
Iowa at Ohio State	OSU 17-3	OSU 21-10	OSU 31-17	OSU 21-12	OSU 23-21
Notre Dame at Pittsburgh	PITT 20-17	PITT 21-17	ND 34-31	ND 24-20	PITT 27-21

SUMMARY

SCORING

Nov. 7, 2009
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 86,115

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Oklahoma	0	3	0	0	3
Nebraska	0	7	3	0	10

Second Quarter

	OU	NU
NU Hill Pass from Lee 1-yard (Henery Kick) 13:36	0	7
Drive: 1 plays 1 yds 0:23		

	OU	NU
OU Way 28-yard Field Goal 00:24	3	7
Drive: 9 plays 59 yds 3:14		

Third Quarter

	OU	NU
NU Henery 28-yard Field Goal 05:38	3	10
Drive: 7 plays 33 yds 2:57		

TEAM STATS

	OU	NU
Total First Downs	23	7
Rushing	7	4
Passing	13	2
Penalty	3	1
Rushing Attempts	29	43
Yards Gained Rushing	105	175
Yards Lost Rushing	25	34
Net Yards Rushing	80	141
Net Yards Passing	245	39
Passes Attempted	58	14
Passes Completed	26	7
Had Intercepted	5	0
Percent Completion	44.8%	50.0%
Yards per Attempt	4.2	2.8
Yards per Completion	9.4	5.6
Total Offensive Plays	87	57
Total Net Yards	325	180
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.7	3.2
Fumbles: No-Lost	2-0	1-1
Penalties: No-Yards	9-64	11-104
Punts: No-Yards	5-245	11-481
Avg. Per Punt	49.0	43.7
Avg. Net Punt	45.2	34.5
Punt Returns: No-Yards	6-102	2-19
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-37	2-27
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	5-61
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	28:18	31:42
Third-Down Conversions	5-18	1-14
Percentage	27.8%	7.1%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-3	0-0
Percentage	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	2-11	2-19

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	
Helu Jr.	20	141	3	138	6.9	0	63	
Robinson	6	13	2	11	1.8	0	6	
Green	6	9	1	8	1.3	0	3	
TEAM	1	0	3	-3	-3.0	0	0	
Lee	10	12	25	-13	-1.3	0	6	
Total	43	175	34	141	3.3	0	63	
Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	
Lee	9	5	55.6	0	35	1	16	
Green	5	2	40.0	0	4	0	8	
Total	14	7	50.0	0	39	1	16	
Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg				
Kinnie	2	21	0	13				
Helu Jr.	3	15	0	16				
McNeill	1	2	0	2				
Hill	1	1	1	1				
Total	7	39	1	16				
Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg				
Paul	2	19	0	19				
Total	2	19	0	19				
Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg				
Marlowe	1	26	0	26				
Stoddard	1	1	0	1				
Total	2	27	0	26				
Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	11	43.7	66	0	0	0	1	2
Total	11	43.7	66	0	0	0	1	2
Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd				
Henery	1	2	28	0				
Total	1	2	28	0				
Defense	Tac	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
O'Hanlon	9	3	12	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Asante	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Crick	2	6	8	0.5-3	0.5-3	1	0	0
Dillard	5	3	8	2-18	1-13	0	0	0
Dennard	4	2	6	1-4	0-0	1	0	0
Gomes	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Allen	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Smith	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Amukamara	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Cassidy	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	2	0	2	1-2	0-0	1	0	0
Turner	1	1	2	0.5-3	0.5-3	1	0	0
Blue	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg				
O'Hanlon	3	30	0	30				
Amukamara	1	22	0	22				
Dillard	1	9	0	9				
Total	5	61	0	30				

OKLAHOMA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	
Brown	12	50	0	50	4.2	0	11	
Murray	14	53	6	47	3.4	0	14	
Jones	3	2	19	-17	-5.7	0	2	
Total	29	105	25	80	2.8	0	14	
Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	
Jones	58	26	44.8	5	245	0	33	
Total	58	26	44.8	5	245	0	33	
Receiving		No		Yds		TD	Lg	
Broyles		8		74		0	22	
Miller		5		69		0	33	
Murray		5		37		0	15	
Kenney		2		33		0	17	
Brown		3		20		0	11	
Hanna		2		8		0	5	
Mensik		1		4		0	4	
Total		26		245		0	33	
Punt Ret		No		Yds		TD	Lg	
Broyles		6		102		0	35	
Total		6		102		0	35	
Kick Ret		No		Yds		TD	Lg	
Madu		2		37		0	23	
Total		2		37		0	23	
Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Way	5	49.0	60	0	0	1	3	1
Total	5	49.0	60	0	0	1	3	1
Field Goals		Made		Att		Lg		Blkd
Way		1		4		28		1
Total		1		4		28		1
Defense	Tac	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Alexander	5	1	6	1.5-5	0.5-4	0	0	0
Beal	6	0	6	1-3	1-3	0	0	0
Carter	3	3	6	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Proctor	6	0	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Taylor	1	5	6	2-6	0-0	0	0	0
Nelson	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Franks	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Reynolds	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Box	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Clayton	1	2	3	0.5-4	0.5-4	0	0	0
Lewis	2	1	3	1.5-2	0-0	0	0	0
McCoy	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Williams	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
English	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fleming	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ibifoye	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jackson	0	1	1	0.5-1	0-0	1	0	0
Miller	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Tennell	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Interception Ret		No		Yds		TD		Lg
Total		0		0		0		0



WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** liked what he heard from the Memorial Stadium crowd of 86,115 (second-largest ever) that turned out to see the Huskers beat Oklahoma 10-3. "That's the best I've heard our crowd in a while and that was good to see," Pelini said. "I think that brought extra energy to us. I think the crowd, I'll be honest with you, it hadn't been that way this year, but tonight it was and I think it really helped our football team."

► Former Nebraska pitcher and Lincoln native **JOBA CHAMBERLAN** was recognized early in the second quarter at Memorial Stadium. Chamberlain and his New York Yankee teammates claimed the organization's 27th World Series title on Nov. 4, defeating the Philadelphia Phillies in six games.

► Nebraska's game captains were junior offensive lineman **RICKY HENRY**, senior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, senior safety **MATT O'HANLON** and junior place kicker **ALEX HENRY**.

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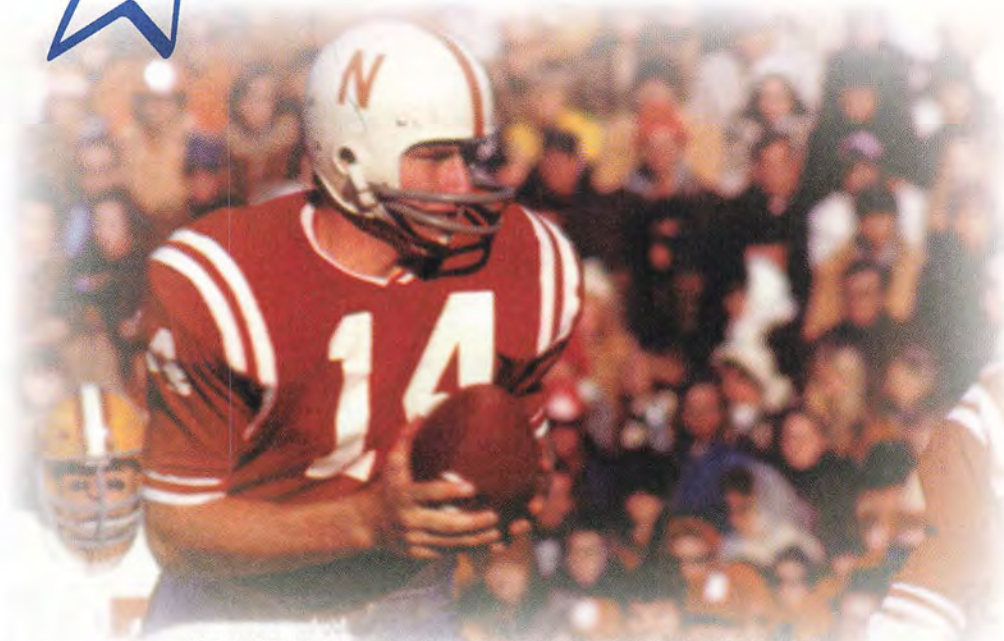
STAY IN THE GAME
GET SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER TODAY



"If you remember watching me play for the Huskers, ask your doctor about getting screened for colon cancer."

JERRY TAGGE

*All-American Quarterback,
1970-71*



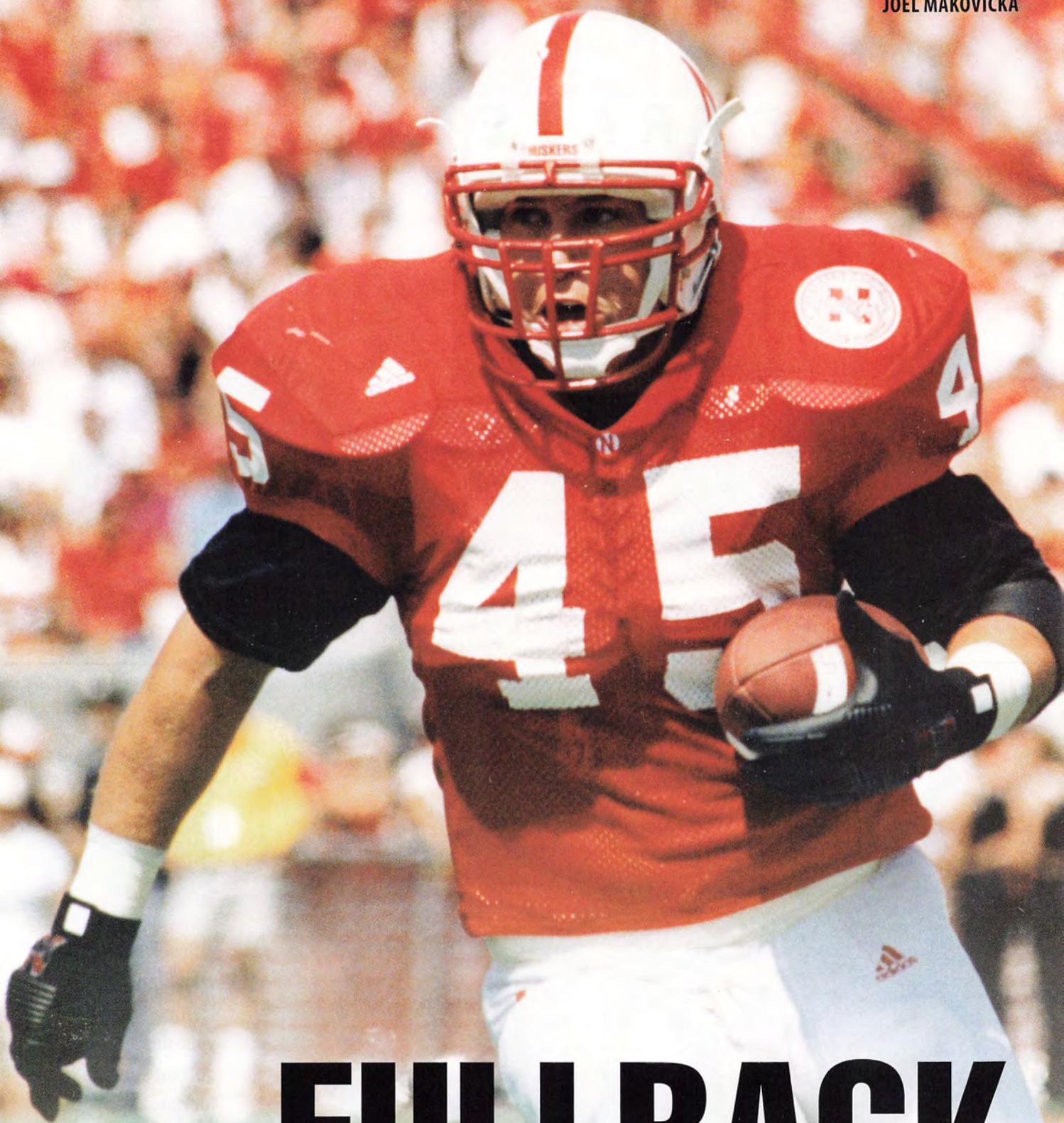
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STAY IN THE GAME OF LIFE.
Starting at age 50, you can reduce your risk of colon cancer with regular screening.

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JOEL MAKOVICKA



FULLBACK TRANSFORMATION

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Cornhusker fullback Tyler Legate built his high school football career in Nebraska by running with the football. Playing for Class C-2 Neligh-Oakdale, Legate rushed for 2,051 yards his senior season, helping his team to an 8-3 record and a state quarterfinals playoff appearance.

Naturally, Legate fields questions these days about whether he misses touching the football. Legate isn't bothered – not by the questions, and not by the fact he never takes a handoff.

"My job," said Legate, "is to block."

So that's what Legate, a redshirted freshman, focuses on when he plays (which may be 10 snaps a game, at the most).

Still, the questions about not carrying the football must seem odd in some sense. Really, who thought there would ever be a day when somebody would ask such a question to a Nebraska fullback? And to a walk-on kid from a small town in Nebraska who plays the position, no less?

Legate understands. He knows the fullback hasn't played a prominent role in the Nebraska offense for about six years now. Ask him about the storied tradition of Nebraska fullbacks and those he remembers watching as a kid, and he'll mention Dane Todd, and how he was impressed with the Lincoln native.

Todd had only five career carries – two came when he was a redshirted freshman in 2003, the year before Bill Callahan brought the West Coast offense to Lincoln.

So yes, Legate knew what his role would be when he joined Nebraska as a walk-on last season. He didn't give up his scholarship to South Dakota expecting to run the foot-ball as a Husker.

"When I walked on here, I just wanted to make the team," said Legate, whose cousin, Billy Legate was a walk-on fullback at Nebraska from 1995-98.

"They said, 'Try fullback,' so that's what I did, and I went hard at it."

Legate explained his transfer from South Dakota to Nebraska as simply wanting to fulfill a dream.

"Just the Nebraska kid thing," he said. "You know how that goes."

Husker fans certainly do. They've spent decades admiring Nebraska fullbacks, and most of a decade wishing for their true return.

"There's something about a fullback and Nebraska," assistant coach Ron Brown said, "that just go together."

In many ways, Legate fits that mold.

"He's tough as nails," Nebraska running backs coach Tim Beck said. "That kid, now, you've got to love him. He's a relentless kid, really tough, plays with good technique and pad level."

Perhaps Nebraskans' love for the fullback is more about what the position represents than the position itself. Husker fans treasure walk-ons, blue-collar work ethic, gritty, physical play, and that mind-set to give everything and expect nothing in return.

Your prototypical Nebraska fullback is all of that and more, oftentimes combined in a 5-foot-10, 230-pound bulldozer from the farm.

"They're guys a lot of the fans could relate to," said Joel Makovicka, a Brainard native and one of many walk-on fullbacks from small Nebraska towns. "They went in and did whatever they had to do, and I think fans relate to that because here in Nebraska, it's that type of mentality that you work your (behind) off."

**"There's
something
about a
fullback and
Nebraska
that just go
together."
Ron Brown**



Ken Kaelin (Westerville), Mark Schellen (Waterloo), Micah Heibel (Lincoln), Tom Rathman (Grand Island), Jeff Makovicka (Brainard) and Cory Schlesinger (Duncan). They played in the '80s and '90s, when fullbacks served an integral role in Tom Osborne's option game.

Not all Nebraska fullbacks fit the small-town Nebraska stereotype. The Huskers' all-time leading rusher at fullback, Andra Franklin, came from Anniston, Ala. Franklin, a rare four-year letterman in his day, ran for 1,738 yards from 1977-80.

Franklin died of natural causes in 2006, and Osborne said at Franklin's memorial service in Lincoln that Franklin was one of the best players he ever coached.

Fullbacks paved the way for Roger Craig, Mike Rozier and Ahman Green, often times

**"It made
Nebraska
unique. You
represented
the state and
the kind of
people that
are here.
People relate
to that. They
want that."
Tim Beck**

leveling linebackers with little or no credit. They wouldn't have it any other way. Nebraskans loved them for it.

"They were like a scud missile. Wherever a defender went, they had to track it," said Brown, also an assistant on Osborne's staff. "They had to not only have the ability to isolate and get through traffic and hit a guy square in the nose, but they had to have the ability to bounce around things."

Brown called the fullback "a glorified lineman" responsible for cleaning up that one free defender. But once in a while, the man doing the dirty work had his own shining moment. Remember Cory Schlesinger's touchdowns in the 1995 Orange Bowl?

Brown, now the Nebraska tight ends

coach, points out that Nebraska uses another version of the fullback today — the H-back, or a tight end lining up in the backfield. It's basically the fullback function, he explains, only using a different player.

Sometimes, Nebraska still lines up in the I-formation with Legate at fullback, although those times aren't often. When the Huskers need 2 or 3 yards on third down, they've brought in Legate as a lead blocker for Roy Helu, Jr., Rex Burkhead or Dontrayevous Robinson. Nebraska's gained a first down in almost every situation.

But not once has Legate carried the ball (although he caught a 3-yard touchdown pass, the first of his career, against Arkansas State).

"You run the football to control the game," Beck said, "but you have to pass it to win, because teams are scoring too many points."

That said, Beck appreciates and understands Nebraskans' love and concern — perhaps even an obsession — for the fullback.

"It made Nebraska unique," he said. "You represented the state and the kind of people that are here. People relate to that. They want that."

And they remind coaches of it, too. Bo Pelini hears the plea at public-speaking engagements. And Beck says fans ask him about it "quite a bit, usually."

Maybe that's why Beck will never say never when hearing fans' pleas for the full-back trap. Beck joked that if coaches ever gave Legate the ball, though, he might never give it back.

So, final question: Will the fullback ever carry the football?

"Who knows?" Beck says with a smile.

"Maybe one day. **N**

HISTORY OF THE HUSKER FULLBACK

ANDRA FRANKLIN



FULLBACKS CAREER RUSHING RECORDS

*Name (years)	Carries	Yards	TDs	100 G
(28) Andra Franklin (1977-80)	324	1,738 (5.36)	10	3
(34) Dick Davis ((1966-68)	349	1,477 (4.23)	4	3
(35) Joel Makovicka (1995-98)	247	1,447 (5.86)	13	2
(37) Tom Rathman (1981-85)	220	1,425 (6.48)	12	4
(50) Jerry Brown (1955-57)	226	1,088 (4.81)	6	2
(52) Bryan Carpenter (1987-89)	170	1,064 (6.26)	7	1
(54) Frank Solich (1963-65)	196	1,010 (5.15)	6	1
(55) Lance Lewis (1988-92)	163	1,008 (6.18)	6	0

[Also played I-back]

(21) Tony Davis (1973-75)	501	2,153 (4.30)	17	7
(40) Bill Thornton (1960-62)	295	1,328 (4.50)	12	3

*Overall rank going into this season

FULLBACKS GAME/SEASON RECORDS

Rushing Yards/Game: Frank Solich, 17-204, at Air Force, 1965

Rushing Yards/Season: Tom Rathman, 118-881, 1985

Touchdowns/Game: 3, Joel Makovicka, Oklahoma, 1997

Touchdowns/Season: 9, Mark Schellen, 1983; Joel Makovicka, 1997

Touchdowns/Career: 14, Judd Davies, 2000-03

Huskers in the hunt for 5-star defensive end

BY RICK SHAW

Nebraska is still in the running for the services of Rivals 5-star defensive end prospect **OWAMAGBE ODIGHIZUWA** of Portland, Ore., David Douglas High. Rated the No. 1 prospect in the state and among the nation's top 20 recruits (at any position), the 6-foot-3, 234-pounder plans to visit Lincoln after the season.

"I took an official to Cal (Oct. 2) and have four more to UCLA (Nov. 7), USC, Nebraska and Florida (Nov. 26)," Odighizuwa said. "I've also been to Oregon unofficially a couple of times, including their win over USC (Oct. 31)."

According to Odighizuwa, the Nebraska coaching staff has played a big role in attracting his interest in the Husker football program over the past few weeks.

"I really want to see the area, want to see the tradition, and I want to see the coaching staff, the new coaching staff, and see [**JOHN PAPUCHIS**] in person," Odighizuwa said. "He's been the biggest factor actually. At first I wasn't interested. I heard a lot about it being in the middle of nowhere, but once I started talking to coach 'JP' (Papuchis) and listening to what he has to say, I had a lot more interest in them."

Odighizuwa was recently selected to participate in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl on Jan. 9 in San Antonio. He recorded 96 tackles, including 22 tackles for losses and 18 sacks as a junior.



DONOVAN VESTAL

CHANGE OF PLANS?

Though he's been listed on Illinois' commit list since last April, 4-star safety **COREY COOPER** of Maywood, Ill., Proviso East said he plans to make a few more visits, including one to Nebraska, before finalizing his college plans.

The 6-2, 203-pound athlete will take an official visits to Lincoln (Nov. 6) and Arizona (Nov. 27) and is working on setting up dates with Tennessee and Illinois. Once he's taken all four of his trips, he will compare his options and make a final decision.

"Coach (**MARVIN SANDERS**) and I have talked a few times about setting up a visit (to Nebraska)," Cooper said. "It's a good program and a school I was interested in early on. I think I have the opportunity to play there."

Rated the No. 4 prospect in the state and the nation's No. 17 safety prospect by Rivals, Cooper has also taken an unofficial visit to Notre Dame this fall and still has the Irish in the mix for his eventual pledge.

TYING UP LOOSE ENDS

The Huskers have already received verbal commitments from three defensive end prospects, including **WALKER ASHBURN** (6-3, 245 pounds) of River Ridge, La., **JOHN CURTIS, CHASE ROME** (6-3, 290 pounds) of Columbia, Mo., Rock Bridge and **DONOVAN VESTAL** (6-5, 240 pounds) of Arlington, Texas, Bowie. However, they hope to secure the pledge of at least one more player at the position before February's signing day.

Plymouth, Minn., Wayzata's **TOBI OKUYEMI** (6-3, 250 pounds) was scheduled to visit Lincoln to watch the Huskers play Oklahoma. After having traveled to Nebraska last spring, he already knows a bit about what to expect.

"I was up there for their spring game. I know they have good fan support and good tradition," Okuyemi said. "And I just want to see more about what they have to offer."

Rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, he's



OKUYEMI

also considering scholarship offers from Iowa and Minnesota. He was credited with 58 tackles and nine sacks as a junior.

Corona, Calif., Eleanor Roosevelt athlete **HAROLD MOBLEY** (6-4, 225 pounds) has been a stand-

out at his school on the offensive side of the ball at tight end, receiver and quarterback. However, it's his potential at defensive end that has grabbed the interest of the Nebraska coaching staff. He too, was scheduled to visit Nebraska for the Oklahoma game.

"It's going to be tough for anybody to beat Nebraska," Mobley said, "but I'm not going to make my decision without consulting my family and my coaches."

Rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, Mobley is also considering offers from Colorado, Nevada and UNLV.

NEBRASKA'S OFFICIAL VISITS

NAME	POS.	HT	WT	DATE	COMMIT
Owamagbe	DE	6-3	234	11/21	
Odighizuwa					
Damon Williams	DT	6-4	300	11/21	
Corey Cooper	DB	6-2	203	11/6	
Jay Guy	DT	6-1	300	11/7	California
Austin Hill	WR	6-3	192	11/7	
Derrick Malone	DB	5-11	165	11/7	
Joshua Mitchell	DB	5-11	165	11/7	
Harold Mobley	ATH	6-4	225	11/7	
Tobi Okuyemi	DE	6-3	250	11/7	
Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	182	11/7	
Giovanni Bernard	RB	5-9	198	10/24	Notre Dame
Curtis Carter	ATH	5-10	161	10/17	Nebraska
Quincy Enunwa	WR	6-2	200	10/17	Nebraska
Andre Hal	DB	6-0	170	10/17	Vanderbilt
Derron Smith	DB	5-11	173	10/17	
Ciante Evans	DB	5-11	170	9/26	Nebraska
Chase Harper	TE	6-6	248	9/26	
Joshua Reese	WR	6-1	182	9/26	
Chase Rome	DE	6-3	290	9/26	Nebraska
Bud Sasser	WR	6-3	200	9/26	
Bobby Swigert	WR	6-1	175	9/26	
Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	286	9/26	
Willis Wright	WR	6-2	185	9/26	
Harvey Jackson	DB	6-2	185	9/5	Nebraska
Tejay Johnson	ATH	6-2	190	9/5	
Mike Moudy	OL	6-7	291	9/5	Nebraska
Donovan Vestal	DE	6-5	240	9/5	Nebraska



IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Omaha Skutt senior quarterback **CHRISTIAN DUDZIK** is one of the more dynamic and

most explosive playmakers in the state of Nebraska. Huskers Illustrated caught up with the 5-foot-11, 180-pound Dudzik in this week's in-state recruiting spotlight.

CALLAHAN: Your coach at Skutt is former Husker quarterback Matt Turman. Has he ever shown off his skills to you guys in practice?

DUDZIK: When I'm running safety and we're playing seven-on-seven in practice, he'll play scout team quarterback a lot, and he's actually impressed me a little bit. He seems like he still has the precision and accuracy as a quarterback. He puts the ball in there pretty well.

CALLAHAN: I've seen you jump over a few guys on the field before. When did you first try that move? Has it ever not worked?

DUDZIK: I did it in a scrimmage my sophomore year, but the first time I did it this year was in a game against Omaha Gross. It was the first running play in the second half. I didn't really plan it or anything. I was right on the sideline and had nowhere else to go, so I just decided to go up I guess. I haven't failed yet at it.

CALLAHAN: You grew up in Kansas as a Kansas State fan. How did you begin following the Wildcats?

DUDZIK: It's my mom's alma mater, so right from birth I was brainwashed to love the 'Cats. Other than that, I have a lot of friends that are fans. My best friend was a K-State fan, so we always had a rivalry with the kids who were Kansas fans.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite place to eat?

DUDZIK: Probably Mr. Goodcents. I usually go there every day for lunch. It's just my routine every day. It's pretty cheap I guess.

CALLAHAN: If you could go out on a date with any celebrity, who would it be and why?

DUDZIK: I guess probably Taylor Swift because she has a great singing voice.

CALLAHAN: Name me a song that makes you sing out loud every time you hear it in your car?

DUDZIK: "You're a Jerk" by New Boyz. It's pretty catchy.

CALLAHAN: If you could attend any sporting event in the world, what would it be?

DUDZIK: The college football national championship game at the Rose Bowl. It seems pretty cool when it's in Pasadena.

Recruiting Notebook

Hunt continues for wide receiver

by Sean Stevens

Wide receiver is a position Nebraska has emphasized for the 2010 recruiting class. Although the Huskers have received commitments from both **CURTIS CARTER** (5-foot-10, 161 pounds, 4 stars) of Stonewall, La., North Desoto High and **QUINCY ENUNWA** (6-2, 200) of Moreno Valley, Calif., Rancho Verde, they are not done recruiting at the position. Expect this class to include at least three and possibly four pass-catchers.

The top candidates to fill the remaining slot(s) are Miami Central's **JOSHUA REESE** (6-1, 182, 4 stars), Corona, Calif., Roosevelt's **AUSTIN HILL** (6-3, 192, 3 stars), and **TEJAY JOHNSON** (6-2, 190, 3 stars) of Egg Harbor Township, N.J.

Reese is the most highly-thought-of by Rivals.com, with the recruiting service listing him as the No. 128-ranked player at all positions nationally. A possession-



type receiver known for his crisp route-running, Reese visited Lincoln in September, and more than a month later, the wideout still recalls the trip fondly.

"My thoughts changed a lot about Nebraska after going up there," Reese said. "I was really impressed with the fans and how they treat you – the whole environment, really. Everything revolves around the football team, and I like that."

Reese is also considering West Virginia,

South Florida and Tennessee.

Hill was scheduled to visit Lincoln for the Oklahoma game. The cousin of Husker freshman defensive back Andrew Green, he averaged 37 catches for 662 yards and seven touchdowns as a sophomore and junior. He has been right on track in 2009 with 732 yards on 28 catches and seven scores.

Hill watched the Huskers' come-from-behind victory over Missouri.

"I was real impressed," he said. "I mean, it took them a while to get it started, but they finished the game well. I was impressed with how they finished in those conditions."

Hill also has offers from Arizona, Colorado and Northwestern.

Johnson visited Nebraska in early September and came away impressed.

"I loved it. It's a great place to be. The coaches are wonderful and the academics are great," he said.

With 10.38-second (electronic) speed in the 100 meters, Johnson can play multiple positions.

"The offensive coordinator and defensive coordinator both want me," Johnson said. "Coach (**SHAWN WATSON**) thinks I'd be a great running back-slot receiver in their offense. Coach (**CARL PELINI**) thinks I'd be a great cornerback. I prefer offense a bit myself, but I just want to get on the field."

Johnson lists offers from Cincinnati, Miami (Fla.) and Michigan State, with Georgia and Ohio State also showing interest. **N**

2010 Nebraska Commitment List (11)

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Walker Ashburn ★★	DE	6-3	245	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
Curtis Carter ★★★★★	ATH	5-10	161	Stonewall, La. (North De Soto)
Quincy Enunwa	WR	6-2	200	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Rancho Verde)
Ciante Evans ★★	CB	5-11	170	Arlington, Texas (Juan Seguin)
Tyler Evans ★★	ATH	6-2	180	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
Tyler Gabbert ★★★★★	QB	6-0	190	Ballwin, Mo. (Parkway West)
Harvey Jackson ★★	DB	6-2	185	Missouri City, Texas (Hightower)
Mike Moudy ★★	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
Andrew Rodriguez ★★★★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Chase Rome ★★★★★	DE	6-3	290	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)
Donovan Vestal ★★	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas (Bowie)

2011 Nebraska Commitment List (2)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Tyler Moore	OL	6-6	290	Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
Ryne Reeves	OL	6-3	286	Crete, Neb. (Crete)



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Debunking recruiting myths and rumors

WHEN YOU COVER recruiting day in and day out for the better part of your professional life, you pick up on some things that tend to get overblown or misunderstood among some fans.

Honestly, especially on message boards, these recruiting clichés end up getting misconstrued or overused.

One of my favorites is the “package-deal.”

This describes when two high school prospects, teammates or family members, plan to go to the same school. I don’t have the statistics in front of me for every player combo that has talked of doing this, but I can assure you, more often than not it goes up in smoke.

The first time I remember this happening in terms of the Huskers was when Nebraska got a pledge from a Maryland tight end named David Harvey. The thought was that when Harvey camped in Lincoln that summer with his teammate and star running back-defensive back A.J. Wallace, the two would head to the same school.

For those keeping score at home, Wallace ended up at Penn State. Harvey signed with Nebraska.

Or there is the story of Phillip Dillard, the Jenks, Okla., star linebacker who signed with the Huskers in the class of 2005. The thought was that Dillard’s brother, star cornerback Gabe Lynn, would lean towards the Huskers because of family when he graduated in the class of 2009.

Lynn signed with Oklahoma.

There is also the story of Alonzo Whaley, a Madisonville, Texas, linebacker who signed with the Huskers in the class of 2008. His younger brother, Chris Whaley, was a 2009 recruit and ended his process quickly with a commitment to Texas.

These are examples related to Nebraska. There have been numerous stories in which brothers or teammates said they would like to play together and never did.

“Package deals” do happen sometimes, as do the much-talked about “silent commits.” I think sometimes this can be overblown as well, but I tend to hear about this more than the package deals.

“Silent commit” describes a prospect who has told a coaching staff in private that he’s verbally committing to that school; however, he doesn’t announce that he’s made a decision to the media, other schools, or the general public.

My problem is not necessarily that it doesn’t happen as much as one may think, but that it doesn’t seem to make much sense.

In talking with people in the business, I posed this question about “silent” commits: If a player has committed, why not announce it? Otherwise, what’s the difference in all of this business of committing in secrecy, not telling anyone else and just having a favorite school? I guess the same could be said for those that are a “soft verbal” — a verbal commit who says he’s a pledge to a particular program, but is still taking visits to other campuses. I guess at least there is more honesty to it.

There are occasions when a prospect will make a pledge and not announce it because he promised a certain school he’d take a visit. I guess my question is: What’s wrong with just saying I’m committed but I promised school “A” I’d take a trip there?

If I’m the head coach or recruiting coordinator for school “A,” I guess I’d prefer to know that before using one of my 56 official visits on a prospect who told the school he was at last weekend, “I’m in!”

At least intentions are announced as things move along.

The other question that gets asked a lot toward the end of a particular recruiting cycle is: Will (fill in the blank with a school) take any prospects no matter what? (This pertains to a school “making room” within the NCAA scholarship limits, somehow, for a particular player).

It’s difficult because really the answer is “it depends.”

First of all, you can’t change NCAA scholarship limits.

The term “over-signing” is used to describe schools that sign more than they have available scholarships for. But it’s really not the most accurate term. When schools do that, they’re not “over-signing” but rather factoring in a grade casualty, roster attrition, or a grayshirt (delaying a prospect’s enrollment to the following January).

So it depends on the school’s situation and how you juggle the numbers.

These are just a few things to think about as we watch this recruiting cycle inch closer to signing day. **N**

Volleyball

HANNAH WERTH

BY BOB HAMAR

Werth emerges as key player for the Huskers

Hannah Werth could probably identify with Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins when he went on his famous “This is Big 12 football,” rant a couple of years ago.

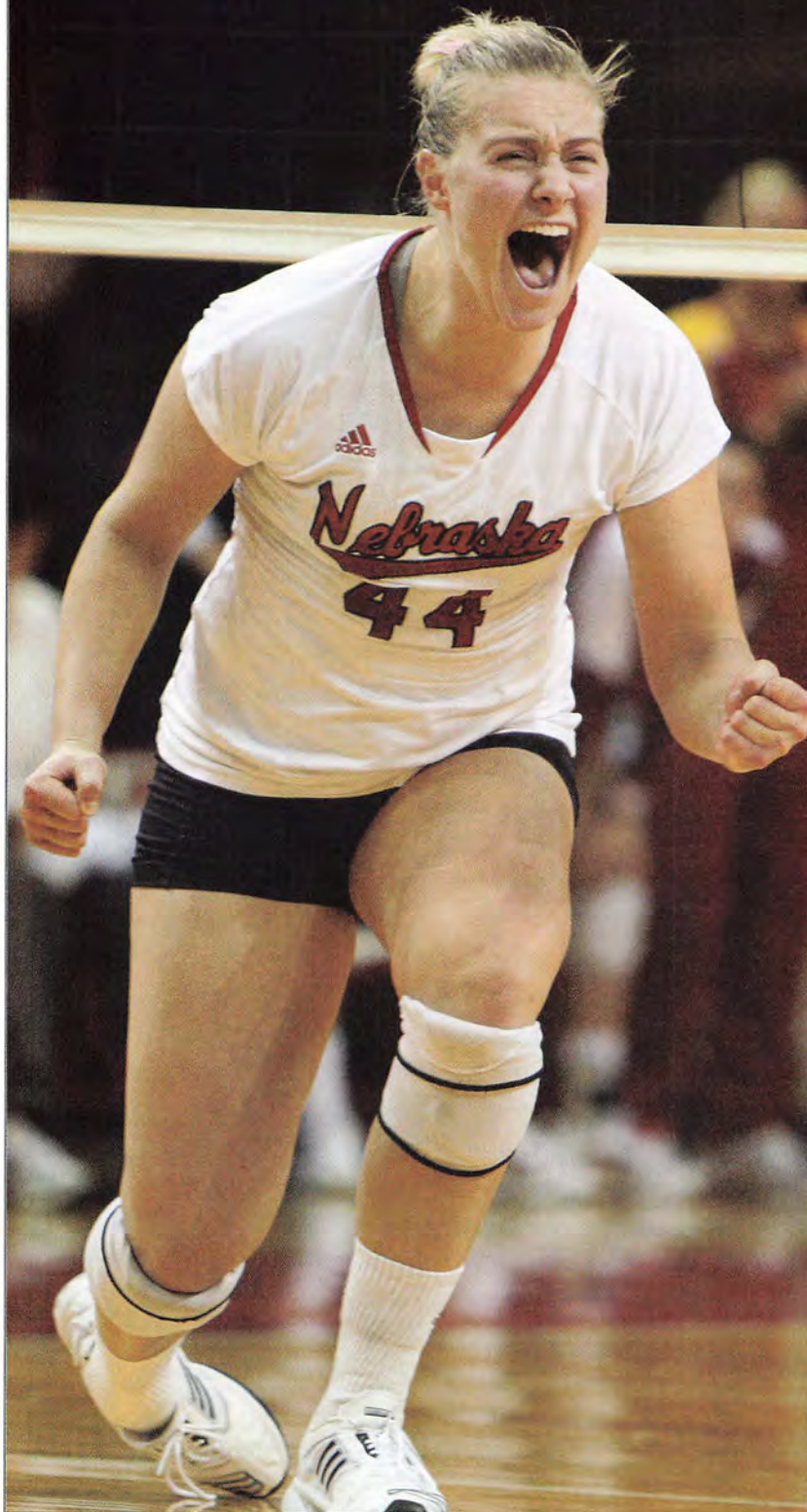
Of course, Werth doesn’t play football. But she does play big-time college volleyball. As a freshman at Nebraska, she’s learning that she’s not in high school anymore.

“This is Division I college volleyball,” Werth said. “It’s not high school. There is a whole different set of rules. Everything is different. There’s strategy behind every play, every action, every movement.

“So just understanding and learning and kind of having muscle memory in that, paying attention to all my surroundings is very important. My teammates do a great job helping me out and letting me realize when those situations are happening.”

Werth, a 6-foot-1 outside hitter, is obviously a quick learner. As of Nov. 4, she was leading the Huskers in kills per game at 3.16. She was also second on the team in digs per game behind libero Kayla Banwarth, had 10 double-doubles for the season and has been named the Big 12 Conference rookie of the week four times.

Nebraska coach John Cook recruited



Werth very hard out of Glenwood High School in Springfield, Ill. No wonder. Her athletic ability is reflected in her family.

Her older brother, Jayson, is an outfielder for the Philadelphia Phillies. Her older sister, Hillary, is on the UCLA track team, while her mother, Kim Schofield-Werth, was a track star at the University of Florida and competed in the long jump and the 100-meter dash at the 1976 Olympic Trials.

Her father, Dennis, played four years in the major leagues for the New York Yankees and the Kansas City Royals, and her uncle, Dick Schofield, and grandfather, Dick "Ducky" Schofield, also played major league baseball.

Werth was recruited by Illinois, Florida, UCLA, Stanford and Wisconsin before picking the Huskers.

"Her greatest strength is she's a great competitor and she works really hard," Cook said. "She's somebody I have to kick out of the gym every day. She'll stay in there, and we'll go over the hours we're allowed.

"Those two things, with her athletic ability, are a great combination to have. She's getting more and more comfortable in her role, and I think getting more and more comfortable playing in the Big 12. That's why you're seeing her numbers come up and she's becoming a fairly dominant player in the conference."

Werth graduated from high school early and joined the Nebraska program in January. That gave her a headstart on getting ready for her freshman season of Division I volleyball.

That has helped junior setter Sydney Anderson develop a chemistry with Werth that the two might not have otherwise had.

"She's a fireball," Anderson said. "She wants to get up and kill a ball. She's a freshman. She's going to go out and go hard, which is great, but at this level if you go hard, there's going to be big hands

up there. As she's seeing, she's going to get blocked a few times.

"I think with the experience on the court she's going to get more comfortable."

Cook had Werth and junior outside hitter Tara Mueller switch positions midway through the season. Werth's offensive production seemed to go up quickly after the move.

"Her role really hasn't changed, but we did switch positions with her and Tara just to simplify things a little more, and I think that's really helped her," Cook said. "The biggest thing is that trust stuff you build as a team. I think that's where she has a little bit of an advantage on Gina (Mancuso) in that she was here in January."

RECORD NOT IMPORTANT

Cook wasn't concerned that the Huskers already had six losses as the calendar turned into November.

As of the Nov. 2 AVCA Coaches poll, the Huskers had lost twice to No. 2 Texas (3-1 and 3-0) and once each to No. 7 UCLA (3-2), No. 8 Iowa State (3-2), No. 15 Michigan (3-0) and No. 23 Texas A&M (3-1) in College Station, Texas.

Cook said the loss to UCLA looks better because the Bruins recently won at Stanford for the first time in nine years.

"I'm not worried about our record because the Big 12 is tougher this year, and we played a tough non-conference schedule," Cook said. "We know we can play with the best teams. The question is can we finish and win."

PREPARED TO WIN

Cook has said all season long that his team this year practices well. He's said that the Huskers have actually played much better in practices than in matches.

Now he sees that type of preparation paying off.

"We've always prided ourselves on preparation, but I think they're growing

into being able to follow game plans and shut teams down," Cook said. "If you look at our stats we're pretty good defensively.

"The other thing that has been impressive is our serving numbers over the last few weeks. They've really improved."

The numbers back that up. The Huskers averaged two aces a set the final week of October and had six aces with just six errors in the loss to Texas.

Now the key is to get everyone playing well at the same time.

"We're developing that muscle of how we need to play," Cook said. "Iowa State is a great example of last year developing that. They got in the post-season and caught fire." **N**

2009 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22	Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28-29	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 28	*vs. Michigan, L, 3-0
Aug. 29	*vs. Minnesota, W, 3-2
Sept. 1	Creighton, W, 3-0
Sept. 4-5	at LSU Tournament
Sept. 4	vs. UL-Lafayette, W, 3-0
	at LSU, W, 3-2
Sept. 5	vs. Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 10-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 10	Virginia, W, 3-0
Sept. 11	BYU, W, 3-1
Sept. 13	^UCLA, L, 3-2
Sept. 16	Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Sept. 19	at Colorado, W, 3-0
Sept. 23	at Texas A&M, L, 3-2
Sept. 30	at Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 7	Kansas, W, 3-0
Oct. 10	Kansas State, W, 3-0
Oct. 14	at Baylor, W, 3-0
Oct. 17	at Missouri, W, 3-1
Oct. 21	Iowa State, L, 3-2
Oct. 24	Oklahoma, W, 3-1
Oct. 28	at Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Oct. 30	at Texas, L, 3-0
Nov. 4	Missouri, W, 3-0
Nov. 7	at Iowa State, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 11-12	*NCAA Regionals, TBA
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinals, Finals
* at Qwest Center, Omaha	
^ at Bob Devaney Sports Center	

Basketball

DOC SADLER & RYAN ANDERSON

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Newcomers tested by Sadler's high expectations

Sek Henry has dealt with the wrath of Doc Sadler. So has Ryan Anderson. Now they're seniors on the Nebraska men's basketball team, responsible for leading a team of talented but young, inexperienced players.

Inexperienced players in the college game, and inexperienced players in understanding Sadler's coaching tactics in practice.

"When you overcome some obstacles that Doc Sadler gives you at practice," Henry said, "I mean, if you can overcome that, then you can play in a game."

Sadler's very hoarse voice at the Big 12 Conference's media day in October was a clear indication that he's been throwing up some pretty big obstacles for his newcomers. The jobs of Henry and Anderson are to play good cop and help their new teammates overcome the adversity.

"I feel for them, totally, even though it's hard to explain to them," Anderson said. "I go to them and say, 'He's testing you, man. It's all adversity, trying to see how much you can take.' Of course, sometimes you're going to break."

Lance Jeter didn't break. The junior college transfer point guard was Sadler's target at one pre-season practice, Henry said.

"Coach tested him the other day. He really, really tested him," Henry said. "I thought he was going to break down, but he really didn't."



He overcame all of the obstacles, and coach was really proud of that."

Henry, who's played in every game of the Sadler era, and Anderson are the only starters returning from a team that finished 18-13, including 8-8 in the Big 12, and lost in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament.

Including walk-ons, Nebraska has 11 players who weren't on the roster a year ago when the first practice began. Not surprisingly, Big 12 coaches picked the Huskers to finish 11th in a pre-season league poll.

That's a big reason Sadler could barely talk to Big 12 reporters.

"We all know I can get crazy sometimes," Sadler said. "But I can promise all of (the newcomers) there's not anybody that had the direct wrath that Ryan and Sek had as freshmen."

Now, Henry and Anderson have been "great leaders from the get-go," Sadler said, and helping boost practice enthusiasm.

"That's something that's big with me," Sadler said. "I think it's very, very important that there's two things you've got to have, and that's enthusiasm and passion. The way we're going to play is not easy. You better like it, and there's going to be days you don't feel like it, and that's when the enthusiasm of somebody else can rub off."

Henry and Anderson both remember experiencing times of adversity in their freshman seasons. They hope this year's newcomers can overcome the adversity the way they did.

Henry recalls the day he and Jamal White spent "what seemed like forever" running through screen after screen after screen.

"Especially when you're a freshman, you're like, 'What is he doing? Why is he doing this to me? He don't like me,'" Henry said. "But he really does. He's just trying to test you."

Anderson won't forget the slap in the face when Sadler benched him before a

home game against Texas A&M. Anderson had been a regular in Nebraska's starting lineup up until that game.

"He just went off on me and said, 'You're going to sit on the bench this game.' I was so mad," Anderson said. "I took it on as a challenge, came off the bench, and I think that's one of the best games I've had in conference (play)."

Anderson came off the bench to score a team-high 18 points in Nebraska's 66-55 loss.

"It's hard to explain to the guys sometimes," Anderson said, "but I bet you if I came back two or three years later ... it'll be a whole different conversation."

Henry agrees.

"I experienced everything Doc is doing to these players right now," Henry said. "It's all mental. All he's trying to do is get you better."

UBEL CONTENDING

Brandon Ubel has been impressive enough in fall practices that Sadler said he's considering starting the true freshman forward.

The 6-foot-10, 220-pound Ubel, from Kansas City, Kan., arrived in Lincoln in June and has been playing with his new teammates all summer.

"He just knows how to play – shoot, pass, doesn't turn the ball over," Sadler said.

Ubel, who turned 18 in August, signed with Nebraska last November and wasn't heavily recruited.

"I keep asking, 'Who was recruiting this guy?' Anderson said, "because I couldn't believe he could fall into our hands."

Ubel has a strong lower body, which helps him inside, but he's also skilled with the basketball on the perimeter. Coaches and players are also impressed with Ubel's basketball knowledge.

"He's very strong," Henry said. "He's going to shock a lot of people. I'm glad we got him."

BIG 12 LOADED

Sadler, who's entering his fourth season at Nebraska, will say this is his deepest, most talented team.

Problem is, at least six other Big 12 coaches made similar comments about their teams at Big 12 media day. And two of those teams – Kansas and Texas – are contenders for a national championship.

Then there's the All-Big 12 pre-season first team. Craig Brackins (Iowa State), Sherron Collins (Kansas), Cole Aldrich (Kansas), Willie Warren (Oklahoma), James Anderson (Oklahoma State) and Damien James (Texas) – a lineup that some Big 12 coaches argued could be an All-American team.

"The Big 12 will be the best it's been since I've been here," Sadler said. **N**

2009 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	Arkansas-Fort Smith (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Hastings (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 14	South Carolina Upstate, TBD
Nov. 18	at Saint Louis, TBD
Nov. 21	TCU, TBD
Nov. 24	UMKC, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at USC, TBD
Dec. 2	Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Creighton, TBD
Dec. 10	Chicago State, 7 p.m.
Dec. 12	Oregon State, TBD
Dec. 19	Jackson State, 7 p.m. at Las Vegas Classic
Dec. 22	vs. Tulsa, 7 p.m.
Dec. 23	vs. BYU or Nevada, 7 or 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	Southern Utah, 7 p.m.
Jan. 2	Maryland Eastern Shore, TBD
Jan. 5	Southeastern Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Texas A&M, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 13	Kansas, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Jan. 16	Iowa State, TBD
Jan. 23	at Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 27	at Colorado, TBD
Jan. 30	Oklahoma, 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 2	Kansas State, 7 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 6	at Kansas, 5 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 10	Baylor, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 13	at Texas, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 17	at Kansas State, TBD
Feb. 20	Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 24	at Iowa State, TBD
Feb. 27	Texas Tech, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Mar. 2	Colorado, TBD
Mar. 6	at Okla. St., 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network at Big 12 Championship
Mar. 10-13	at Kansas City, Mo. (Sprint Center)

ERIC NEWMAN



BASEBALL New faces include three MLB draft picks

BY CURT MCKEEVER

ERIC NEWMAN sounded like a skipping record as he assessed how some of his rookie pitchers performed during their first fall practice with the Nebraska baseball team.

Among those on that 13-player list of newcomers is a right-handed trio of 2009 Major League Draft picks: **TOM LEMKE**, from Phoenix (10th round by Texas), **KURT GILLER** of Manhattan, Kan. (21st round by Toronto) and **RYAN HANDER** of Sioux Falls, S.D. (39th round by Los Angeles Dodgers).

"Lemke was really good," the third-year pitching coach Newman said of a guy who put himself in position to be a weekend

starter. "Giller was really good, struggled with command early, but...he doesn't get hit when he throws it over home plate."

And Hander?

"Hander's got a chance to be really good," Newman said.

That's really good news, considering last season Nebraska, en route to missing the NCAA Tournament for only the second time in 11 years, finished ninth out of 10 teams in the Big 12 Conference with an earned-run average of 6.22.

Newman also talked excitedly about junior college transfers **CHASE ADAMS**, **KHRIS TATE** and **RYAN HUGHES**, and freshman **ZACH HIRSH**.

In two seasons at Howard (Texas) College, which won the 2009 national junior

college championship, Adams was 14-0.

"Chase is a guy who knows how to do it. He's an average-stuff guy, but throws tons of strikes, which makes him really good as a guy who can eat up innings," Newman said.

Hughes is an imposing lefty who was selected by Arizona in the 16th round of the 2008 draft, but was limited by injury during his time at Chabot (Calif.) College.

"When he's good, he's really, really good. And when he's not good, it's because he struggles throwing strikes," Newman said. "But he's got pretty dominant stuff. He's a pretty physically imposing kid, like 6-6, 230, and he makes it look pretty good."

As can junior **MIKE NESSETH**, who opted to return for his junior season after being taken in the 15th round by the Los Angeles Angels. Nesseth (5-4 with two saves and a team-best 73 strikeouts in 64.2 innings last season) expects to begin 2010 as the Huskers' closer.

"Nesseth was probably, if not the most

dominant, one of the most dominant guys we had all fall," Newman said. "He had one walk and 25 strikeouts at one point in time."

Other veterans who drew praise were right-handed juniors **MICHAEL**

MARIOT, CASEY HAUPTMAN and MATT FREEMAN.

"Mariot showed 94-95 mph a couple of times, with a lot of strikes. He made some jumps," Newman said. "Freeman, this was the best fall he's had. Now, he's got to go do it in spring."

By then, Nebraska will have right-handed sophomore **SEAN YOST** -- another likely weekend starter who rested his arm in the fall.

Offensively, NU returns All-Big 12 first baseman **TYLER FARST**, right fielder **ADAM BAILEY**, who led the 2008 club in home runs and RBIs, and six other regular position players who made at least 20 starts for a group that finished with a .282 batting average, which ranked ninth in the Big 12.

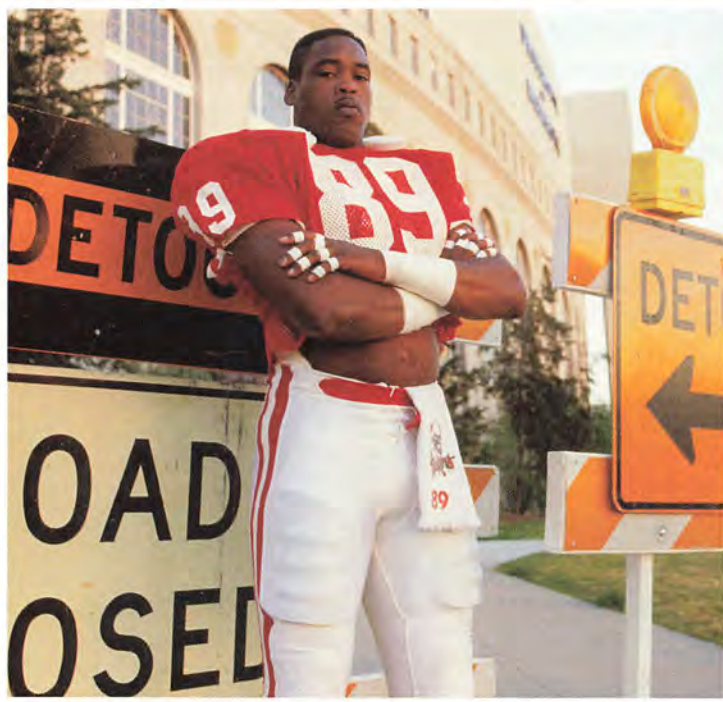
"We're a talented team that needs to develop, and we've got some time to do that," eighth-year coach **MIKE ANDERSON** said. "But it sure is nice to see balls going out of the ballpark and strikes being thrown." **N**

2010 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Fri, Feb. 19	at Fresno State, 8:05 p.m.
Sat, Feb. 20	at Fresno State, 4:05 p.m.
Sun, Feb. 21	at Fresno State, 3:05 p.m.
Mon, Feb. 22	at Fresno State, 8:05 p.m.
Fri, Feb. 26	at TAMU-Corpus Christi, 1 p.m.
Sat, Feb. 27	at Rice, 4:30 p.m.
Sun, Feb. 28	vs. Elon, Noon
Tue, Mar. 02	South Dakota State, 1:05 p.m.
Fri, Mar. 05	at UCLA, 8 p.m.
Sat, Mar. 06	at UCLA, 4 p.m.
Sun, Mar. 07	at UCLA, 1 p.m.
Wed, Mar. 10	Nebraska-Kearney, 1:05 p.m.
Fri, Mar. 12	Houston Baptist, 1:05 p.m.
Sat, Mar. 13	Houston Baptist, 2:05 p.m.
Sun, Mar. 14	Houston Baptist, 1:05 p.m.
Fri, Mar. 19	at Texas, 6:05 p.m.
Sat, Mar. 20	at Texas, 2:05 p.m.
Sun, Mar. 21	at Texas, 1:05 p.m.
Tue, Mar. 23	Northern Colorado, 1:05 p.m.
Wed, Mar. 24	Northern Colorado, 1:05 p.m.
Fri, Mar. 26	Oklahoma, 6:35 p.m.
Sat, Mar. 27	Oklahoma, 2:05 p.m.
Sun, Mar. 28	Oklahoma, 1:05 p.m.
Tue, Mar. 30	North Dakota, 6:35 p.m.
Wed, Mar. 31	North Dakota, 1:05 p.m.
Fri, Apr. 02	at Oklahoma State, 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Apr. 03	at Oklahoma State, 2 p.m.
Sun, Apr. 04	at Oklahoma State, 1 p.m.
Tue, Apr. 06	Creighton, 6:35 p.m.
Fri, Apr. 09	at Kansas State, 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Apr. 10	at Kansas State, 2 p.m.
Sun, Apr. 11	at Kansas State, 1 p.m.
Tue, Apr. 13	Wichita State, 6:35 p.m.
Fri, Apr. 16	Kansas, 6:35 p.m.
Sat, Apr. 17	Kansas, 4:05 p.m.
Sun, Apr. 18	Kansas, 1:05 p.m.
Tue, Apr. 20	^at Creighton, 6:30 p.m.
Fri, Apr. 23	at Baylor, 6:30 p.m.
Sat, Apr. 24	at Baylor, 6:30 p.m.
Sun, Apr. 25	at Baylor, 1:30 p.m.
Tue, Apr. 27	vs. Iowa, at Des Moines, Iowa
Fri, Apr. 30	Texas A&M, 6:35 p.m.
Sat, May 01	Texas A&M, 2:05 p.m.
Sun, May 02	Texas A&M, 1:05 p.m.
Fri, May 07	SE Missouri State, 6:35 p.m.
Sat, May 08	SE Missouri State, 2:05 p.m.
Sun, May 09	SE Missouri State, 12:05 p.m.
Fri, May 14	at Missouri, 6 p.m.
Sat, May 15	at Missouri, 2 p.m.
Sun, May 16	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Tue, May 18	at Creighton, 7 p.m.
Fri, May 21	Texas Tech, 6:35 p.m.
Sat, May 22	Texas Tech, 2:05 p.m.
Sun, May 23	Texas Tech, 1:05 p.m.
^ at Rosenblatt Stadium	

2009 NEBRASKA FALL BASEBALL ROSTER

#	PLAYER	POS.	B/T	HT.	WT.	CL.	#	PLAYER	POS.	B/T	HT.	WT.	CL.
1	Boomer Collins *	OF	R/R	5-11	185	So.	24	Khiry Cooper	OF	R/R	6-2	194	So.
2	Chad Christensen	INF	R/R	6-3	180	Fr.	25	Erik Anderson **	RHP	R/R	5-10	187	Sr.
3	Kash Kalkowski * RHP/UTL	R/R	6-1	198	So.		26	Dylan Vogt	RHP	R/R	6-2	185	Fr.
4	DJ Belfonte ***	OF	L/L	5-10	182	Sr.	27	Zach Hirsch	LHP	L/L	6-4	180	Fr.
6	Kyle Bubak *	INF	S/R	6-0	182	Sr.	28	Nate Kerkhoff *	LHP	L/L	5-11	174	So.
7	Bryan Peters	INF/RHP	R/R	6-2	185	Fr.	30	Tom Lemke	RHP	R/R	6-7	200	Fr.
8	Sean Yost *	RHP	R/R	6-6	194	So.	31	Chase Adams	RHP	R/R	6-0	170	Jr.
9	Khrist Tate	RHP	R/R	6-1	180	Jr.	32	Tyler Farst **	1B/OF	R/R	6-0	211	Sr.
10	Kurt Farmer	INF	R/R	6-2	190	Fr.	33	Michael Mariot **	RHP	R/R	6-0	177	Jr.
11	Matt Freeman **	RHP	R/R	6-1	183	Jr.	34	Jordan Roualdes *	LHP	L/L	6-2	207	Sr.
12	Adam Bailey *	OF	L/L	6-0	189	Sr.	36	Tyler Lansangan	RHP	R/R	5-9	165	So.
13	Cory Burleson *	C	S/R	6-0	203	So.	37	Ryan Hander	RHP	R/R	6-3	180	Fr.
14	Kale Kiser *	INF	S/R	5-10	182	So.	38	Pat Hirschberg	OF	R/R	6-2	210	Fr.
16	Chris Williams	RHP	R/R	6-3	200	Fr.	39	Nick Ludemann	RHP	R/R	6-5	196	RFr.
17	Luke Bublit	RHP/INF	L/R	6-3	200	Fr.	41	Mike Nesseth **	RHP	R/R	6-5	220	Jr.
18	Casey Hauptman **	RHP	R/R	6-4	214	Jr.	43	Eric Rose *	LHP	L/L	6-2	227	Jr.
19	Patric Tolentino	C	R/R	6-3	210	Jr.	44	Kurt Giller	RHP	L/R	6-2	215	Fr.
20	Josh Scheffert	INF/RHP	R/R	6-2	200	Fr.	46	John Mulgrue	C	R/R	6-0	205	Fr.
21	Tyler Niederklein	RHP	R/R	6-2	195	Fr.	47	Brian Donohoe	C	R/R	5-11	165	Fr.
22	Cody Asche *	INF	L/R	6-1	189	So.	48	Nick Dolsky	RHP	R/R	6-7	195	Fr.
23	Cade Thompson *	1B	L/L	6-2	196	Sr.	50	Ryan Hughes	LHP	L/L	6-6	230	Jr.



THE "SANDMAN" - **BRODERICK THOMAS** earned the nickname "Sandman" at Houston's Madison High School because he put ball carriers to sleep when he tackled them. He also was "the master of disaster," he said, as well as "the master of the talking game." He certainly never hesitated to speak his mind. "My father always told me, 'Unless you're right, keep your mouth shut. If you're wrong, keep quiet.' If I'm not confident enough to do my job, I'll keep my mouth shut. Talking doesn't win ball games. You have to go out there and execute, do things well, in order to open your mouth." Thomas executed and backed up what he said by what he did on the field. He was a two-time All-American, a co-captain and the Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year in 1988, when he led the Cornhuskers in tackles (98) and sacks (10) and finished second in voting for the Butkus Award as the nation's top collegiate linebacker. He proclaimed Memorial Stadium "our house." He still gets emotional when talking about Nebraska football.

GAMES REMEMBERED

Nov. 9, 1991 • at Lawrence, Kan.



CALVIN JONES' first carry didn't come until the second quarter. He gained 12 yards.

What appeared to be his final carry came with just under 9 minutes remaining in the game, after Nebraska had rallied from a 17-0 first-quarter deficit to take control.

With less than 7 minutes remaining, however, Jones went back in the game.

"We don't normally make concessions to records, but this was special," Cornhusker coach **TOM OSBORNE** said by way of explaining why, with the outcome decided, Jones would go back in.

When the redshirted freshman had left earlier, he was 1 yard short of the school single-game rushing record of 284 yards, set by **MIKE ROZIER** in 1983 – also against Kansas.

So Jones got another carry, and lost 2 yards.

He came out, only to return and carry twice more, gaining 6 yards on each of the carries to finish with 294 yards. Oh yes, he also tied a school record by scoring six touchdowns.

Not a bad performance for a No. 2 I-back.

Sophomore **DEREK BROWN**, the starter and already a 1,000-yard rusher, had been forced to the sideline with blurred vision because of a scratched cornea, suffered in the second quarter.

Prior to the game, Jones had carried 55 times for 367 yards and five touchdowns.

TOM OSBORNE: "At the end of the first quarter, I thought we'd

Nebraska 59, Kansas 23

Nebraska	0	17	14	28	—	59
Kansas	17	3	3	0	—	23

(K) Dan Eichloff 19 field goal

(K) Dwayne Chandler 50 pass Chip Hilleary (Eichloff kick)

(K) Hilleary 34 run (Eichloff kick)

(N) Calvin Jones 3 run (Byron Bennett kick)

(N) Bennett 47 field goal

(N) Jones 47 run (Bennett kick)

(K) Eichloff 21 field goal

(N) Jones 9 run (Bennett kick)

(N) Jones 1 run (Bennett 47 field goal)

(K) Eichloff 52 field goal

(N) Jones 68 run (Bennett kick)

(N) Jones 12 run (Bennett kick)

(N) George Achola 31 run (Tom Sieler kick)

(N) Achola 15 run (Sieler kick)

Attendance: 40,000 (est.)

have a hard time winning it and had no idea we'd be able to put it away. This will be regarded as another ho-hummer by a lot of people, but I thought it was a big win today."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Two Cornhuskers had scored six touchdowns in a single game prior to Calvin Jones: Bill Chaloupka and Harvey Rathbone. Chaloupka did it against Doane in 1907. Rathbone did it against both Peru State and Haskell Institute in 1910. Touchdowns were worth only five points when Chaloupka and Rathbone played.

► Kansas went into the game ranked No. 14 nationally in total defense and No. 22 in rushing defense. Nebraska finished with 596 total yards, 493 of them rushing.

► Jones would have been the No. 3 I-back that season had Scott Baldwin not been sidelined by injury. Jones finished the season with 900 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns.

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. Leading tackler vs. Baylor
6. 2003 All-America defensive back
8. Kansas head coach
9. Network for NU-Kansas game
10. Kansas head coach before Mangino
11. Made first start vs. Baylor
12. Holder for place kicks
14. Wears No. 5 (defense)
17. Injured running back
19. Recruiting coordinator
23. Intercepted pass in 1st quarter vs. Baylor
24. Long-snapper
25. Wears No. 15 (defense)
26. 2003 All-America punter
27. Kansas nickname
28. Kansas campus location

DOWN

2. Wide receiver who also plays baseball
3. Ex-Husker punter now with Baltimore Ravens
4. Redshirt freshman kick returner
5. 1983 Outland Trophy winner
6. Returned blocked punt for touchdown vs. Baylor
7. Kansas All-American in Pro Football Hall of Fame
12. Blocked punt vs. Baylor
13. Safety from Arizona
14. Wears No. 15 (offense)
15. Kansas school color
16. Intercepted pass in 2nd quarter vs. Baylor
17. Tight ends coach
18. Nov. 21 opponent
20. Leading rusher vs. Baylor
21. NU assistant who formerly coached at Kansas
22. Ex-Husker center now with Detroit Lions
26. Wears No. 5 (offense)



Answers will appear in the Nov. 21 issue

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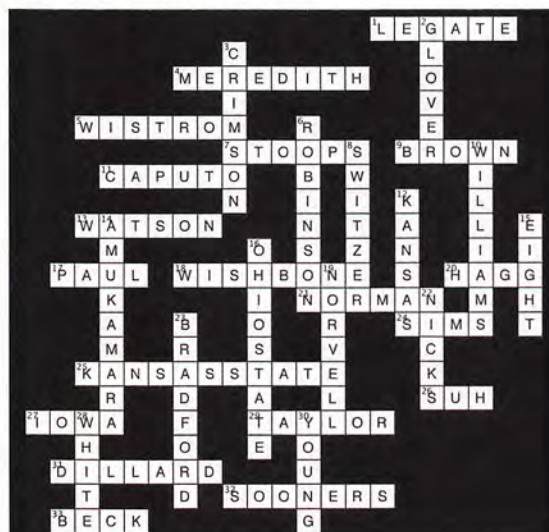
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NOV. 7 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

No "Sooner Magic" to haunt Huskers

NO ONE LEFT the game early. And those in the northwest corner of Memorial Stadium stood and chanted "defense" as the Nebraska football team left the field.

Roy Helu, Jr. was the first of four Cornhuskers to scale the screen that extended from the ground to the bottom of the North Stadium stands to share the moment with fans reaching over the railing. Marcus Mendoza, Dontrayevous Robinson and Antonio Bell were close behind.

It was their impromptu version of the Green Bay Packers' celebratory "Lambeau leap."

However, "it wasn't as nice of a jump," said Helu, who was forced to make it in two stages because of the height of the railing. "I had to jump on a pipe and then into the crowd."

Fortunately, all four made it back down without injury.

The moment called for such spontaneity. Minutes earlier, the final seconds had run off the clock in Nebraska's 10-3 victory against No. 20-ranked Oklahoma.

Quarterback Zac Lee took the last snap on first down at his own 3-yard line, with 27 seconds remaining. He pushed forward for 2 yards – to give the Cornhuskers 180 total for the game.

Oklahoma had no more timeouts. And no more hope.

Players swarmed the field. Nebraska center Jacob Hickman hugged Oklahoma's Brody Eldridge. It seemed like old times, the Cornhuskers and Sooners going down to the wire.

"Forget me," Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said in response to an obligatory question about whether the adjective "signature"

should precede victory. "It ain't about me."

Rather, he said, it was about the players.

It was about Matt O'Hanlon, for instance. The senior safety was much-maligned after a receiver got behind him late in the fourth quarter of the Cornhuskers' 16-15 loss at Virginia Tech.

"You can't ask much more from a guy," Pelini said.

O'Hanlon made 12 tackles and intercepted three passes, the last as Oklahoma tried in desperation to at least tie the score, on second-and -10 at the Nebraska 49-yard line with 27 seconds left.

After he caught the ball, O'Hanlon hurled it in the air, drawing a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. Considering Oklahoma couldn't stop the clock, the Cornhusker coaches might have enjoyed the symbolism, though "they probably wouldn't admit it," said O'Hanlon. "But what can you do?"

The Sooners, of course, couldn't do anything except watch the seconds click off.

In that final minute, images of "Sooner Magic" might have flashed through the minds of those old enough to remember. After all, Barry Switzer, who coined the term, was in the house.

"Sooner Magic" described how Oklahoma often snatched victory in the unlikeliest of ways.

Like in 1986 at Memorial Stadium, when the Sooners scored a touchdown on a pass from Jamelle Holieway to tight end Keith Jackson to finish off an 11-play, 94-yard drive with 1:22 remaining and then got a 31-yard field goal by Tim Lasher with 6 seconds left for a 20-17 victory.

Or like in 1976, also a 20-17 victory, when they scored the winning touchdown

with 38 seconds remaining after a pair of unusual pass plays. On the first, quarterback Thomas Lott handed the ball to Woodie Shepard, who pulled up and threw to split end Steve Rhodes. On the second, third-and-19, quarterback Dean Blevins passed to Rhoades, who lateraled to Elvis Peacock.

The first play gained 49 yards, from the Oklahoma 16-yard line, the second 32 yards.

This time there was no "Sooner Magic," even though Oklahoma got something of an odd break to start its final possession. With 41 seconds remaining, on first down at the Nebraska 49-yard line, quarterback Landry Jones threw an incomplete pass.

He got a do-over, however, after the officials explained that the punt return preceding the possession was under review to determine if the returner had stepped out of bounds before getting to the 49-yard line. The review had been signaled before the ball was snapped.

The do-over was also incomplete, and nearly intercepted by O'Hanlon.

"I had kind of a mulligan, I think," said O'Hanlon, who picked off the next one.

The games in the "Sooner Magic" days had national significance. This one did not. It did, however, justify Cornhusker claims that the goal of getting to the Big 12 championship game remains intact.

"It's just one win," Pelini said. "This game means nothing if we don't come back and go to Lawrence (Kan.) and take care of business (against Kansas) next weekend."

Still, regardless of what happens, the Oklahoma victory means something.

Those who were there and celebrating afterward won't soon forget. **N**

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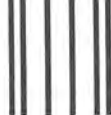
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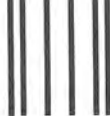
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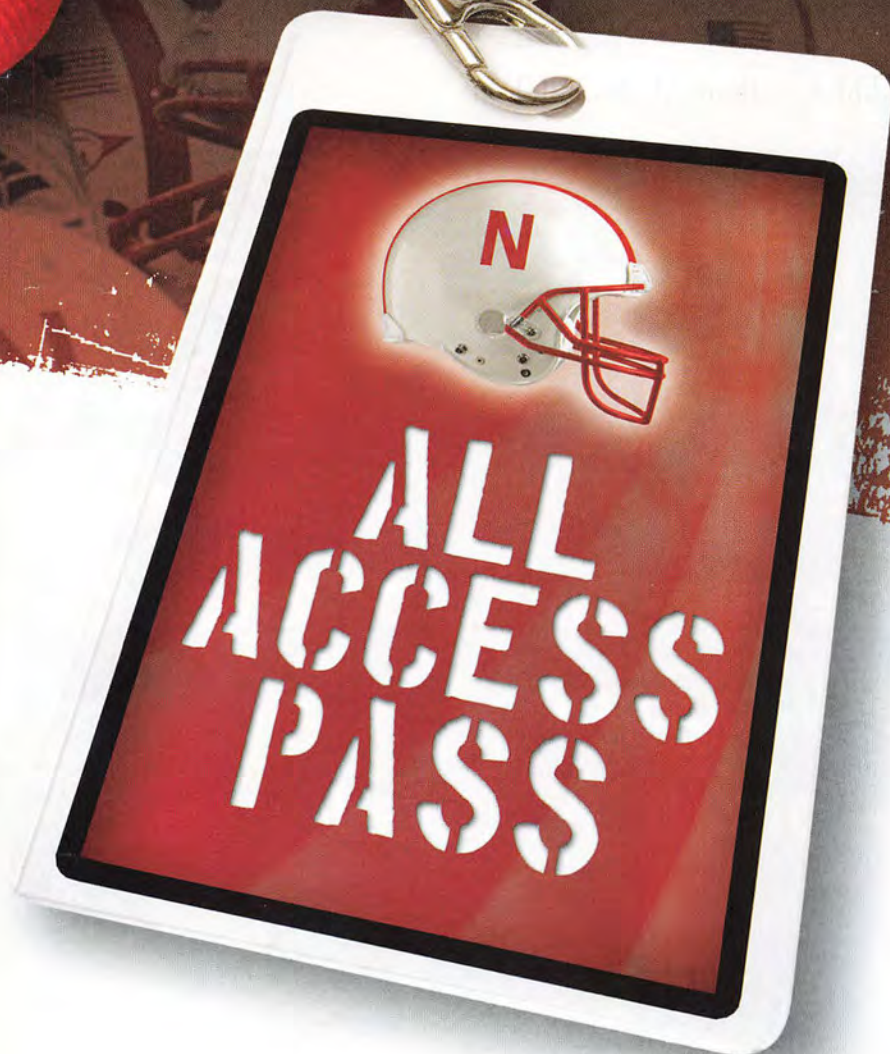
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2009 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Results
Sat, Sep 05	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat, Sep 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-9
Sat, Sep 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, VA	L, 15-16
Sat, Sep 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	W, 55-0
Thu, Oct 08	at Missouri *	at Columbia, MO	W, 27-12
Sat, Oct 17	Texas Tech *	Memorial Stadium	L, 10-31
Sat, Oct 24	Iowa State *	Memorial Stadium	L, 7-9
Sat, Oct 31	at Baylor *	at Waco, TX	W, 20-10
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Memorial Stadium	W, 10-3
Sat, Nov 14	at Kansas *	at Lawrence, KS	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri, Nov 27	at Colorado *	at Boulder, CO	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Dec 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, TX (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)	7 p.m., ABC

* Conference games



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